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3

THE TIMES

30P

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 15 1995

EDUCATION

Schools in the front line, PAGE 33

For your pleasure...
David Sinclair on the Roxy Music retrospective
ARTS, PAGE 31

Take a deep breath ladies
Julia Llewellyn Smith on the return of the corset
PAGE 15

Suited to comedy
Valerie Grove on the rise of Jack Dee
PAGE 14

Race hate inquiry on riot speeches

'Incitement to violence' is attacked by Yard chief

By Richard Ford, Stewart Tendler and Stephen Farrell

SIR PAUL CONDON last night launched a criminal investigation into inflammatory speeches which he claimed incited people to riot and attack the police in Brixton on Wednesday night.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner condemned the "thugs" who caused £1 million of damage, but he saved his strongest language for those he accused of fanning the flames of hatred with their speeches outside Brixton police station.

He said that speakers at a vigil protesting about the death of a black man in police custody could face criminal charges if they were found to have incited people to cause trouble in the south London borough.

"I think what was unforgiveable was the inflammatory speeches by people outside the police station," he said. "They could have acted responsibly but they actually incited violence and we will certainly have a criminal inquiry into this aspect of what happened."

The police are expected to send a report to the Crown Prosecution Service, but no immediate action is likely while tensions remain high.

Sir Paul mentioned nobody by name, but police are studying a leaflet put out by the disgraced barrister Rudy Narayan, calling for people to take down the registration numbers of Brixton policemen's cars and list their home addresses.

Mr Narayan told the gathering on Wednesday: "The Brixton police are killers and they will not understand what they have done until one of them has been killed." And last night he declared that his speech was "no more inflammatory than killing a man in police custody".

Mr Narayan had been speaking at the vigil organised by the National Black Caucus for Wayne Douglas who died after being arrested for alleged aggravated burglary last week. Rioting erupted afterwards in which 12 people were injured and 22 arrested. Shops, a garage and public houses were attacked and looted, vehicles set on fire and shots were fired.

Last night, as hundreds of extra officers stood by in case of further trouble, Michael Howard appealed for calm. After touring the riot scene, the Home Secretary said: "There can be no excuse whatsoever for the lawlessness which took place in Brixton."

He had spoken to community leaders and he was sure that the overwhelming majority were very angry about what had happened, they were "building a new Brixton, a better Brixton, a Brixton offering better opportunities and hope for the residents."

Labour also condemned the rioting and Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Of course Brixton, like other inner city areas, has many social and economic disadvantages. But criminal activity like last night's can only worsen Brixton's problems, not improve them."

Keith Hill and Kate Hoey, both local Labour MPs, also criticised the violence, saying that the vast majority of local people would deplore the action, which had damaged businesses and local incomes.

Wayne Douglas's brother, Albert, blamed the police for the rioting, however, saying: "I think this was as a result of the youths of Brixton being constantly arrested. People are very angry about the death of my brother and they wanted to do something about it. The police need to be aware of the needs of the youths on the streets. here is nothing being done for them and they feel frustration."

Lee Jasper, the head of the National Black Caucus, repeated his calls for an inquiry into Mr Douglas's death and said: "Last night was nothing really. It was a minor blip, but

Continued on page 3, col 1

Rich pickings, page 3
Paul Barker, page 16
Leading article, page 17

TONY WHITE

Narayan: urged protesters to note policmen's home addresses and car registrations

JOHN MINIHAM

Tisshaw: "I didn't think I was going to die. I'm too much of an optimist"

‘If a policeman is killed because he is behaving badly I will not fret’

By Richard Ford

RUDY NARAYAN, the struck-off black barrister who helped to organise the vigil outside Brixton police station for Wayne Douglas, the burglary suspect who died in custody, told the crowd: "The Brixton police are killers and they will not understand what they have done until one of them has been killed.

"The police are using public money and public equipment to kill black people. If a policeman is killed because he is behaving badly I will not fret".

Mr Narayan, 57, also handed out leaflets urging people to take down the registration numbers of Brixton police officers' cars and list their home addresses.

The leaflet, headed *Civil Rights (UK) Ltd*, says: "Wayne Douglas's Christmas present from Brixton police was death! What will Brixton's black community give Brixton police for Christmas?".

"Brixton Police are clearly led and incited from within by the most vicious racist killers the black community has ever seen.

"It is high time that Brixton Police was made fully accountable for this MURDER. All the officers concerned should be charged with MURDER. The Chief Officer of Brixton Police Station should be sacked forthwith. The Lambeth Police Liaison Committee, that assembly of fools, charlatans and apologists for police crime should be hounded out of existence for the treachery they are wreaking on the Brixton black community.

"Wayne Douglas's Christmas present from Brixton Police was DEATH. What will Brixton's black community give Brixton Police for Christmas? We can start by taking down the registration numbers of Brixton Police officers' motor cars .... we can also list their private home addresses. There is no doubt that immediate and severe action is required before Brixton Police will kill again. Stop the serial killers policing Lambeth's streets."

Mr Narayan said yesterday: "It would be a great honour to be prosecuted for incitement or any thing else arising out of this. I don't think the police realise the sting of death that they dealt to this community before Christmas. I think were they to continue with the present confrontational tactics sooner or later a policeman is going to be killed and then all hell will break lose".

‘I got dragged off my bike and just got one hell of a kicking’

By Joanna Bale

A POLICEMAN described yesterday how he was dragged off his motorcycle and beaten by rioters in Brixton.

PC John Tisshaw, 39, suffered a broken collar bone when he was mobbed by a gang of youths as he directed traffic on Wednesday. He said: "We were on the junction of Acre Lane and Brixton Road directing traffic and the trouble had been bubbling over for the best part of the evening. As we started to move out I wasn't quick enough and 20 or 30 came at me from behind. Before I knew what had happened I got dragged off my bike and I really just got one hell of a kicking.

"I had the crash helmet on, which was quite lucky because I can remember two or three fairly substantial kicks into the helmet. I don't know how long it went on for, but there were five or six people, white or coloured I just don't know."

A motorist drove at the crowd, forcing it to disperse so that PC Tisshaw could be saved and yesterday he was recovering in hospital.

Asked what was going through his mind, he said: "Once you're rolling down on the floor and getting kicked right, left and centre, self-preservation takes over. I thought 'How am I going to get out of this?' I didn't think I was going to die but perhaps that's because I'm too much of an optimist. I just felt frightened by it."

Fall in inflation boosts markets

Inflation fell again in November, setting a record for the longest peacetime run of low prices since the 1930s.

The headline rate fell to 3.1 per cent from 3.2 per cent, vindicating Kenneth Clarke's decision to cut base rates. The news further boosted financial markets with the FTSE 100 index hitting a new high of 3,683.7 before easing back to close 9.2 points higher at 3,671.6 .... Page 21

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Major faces snub on single currency

By Philip Webster in Madrid and George Brock

BRITAIN'S doubts over a single European currency were reinforced last night as John Major arrived in Madrid for a two-day summit that will be dominated by the issue of monetary union.

The Prime Minister, speaking in the Spanish capital, said that it was "absolutely imperative" that the European Union should carry out a full-scale study into the implications of a single currency going ahead with only a few countries as members. He said that the Union had so far failed to grasp the implications of only a minority of countries such as France and Germany joining a single currency.

The Government's sceptical line had earlier been underlined when Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, spoke of the "sacrifice of national control" that would be involved in a single currency. As the summit today decides on the name of a future single currency, with Euro the favourite, Mr Major is to concentrate on a call for a far-reaching study of the pitfalls of monetary union if only a handful of countries can join.

While the Prime Minister is likely to win his study, the Union is expected to and confirm January 1 1999 as the starting date. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday Mr Rifkind adopted his most sceptical tone about a single currency. He said: "Everyone accepts that monetary union means that national parliaments and national governments would no longer be able to have control over, or even a dominant influence on, a whole range of monetary decisions and economic decisions as a consequence."

Countdown to EMU, page 10

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Win a £3,500 mini Mercedes sports, in **Car 95**

90 for the 1990s: the artists of the decade, in the **Magazine**

Complete guide to Christmas and New Year TV and radio, in a double issue of **Vision**

Bosnia pact signed but attacks go on

From Ben McIntyre in Paris

AT midday yesterday the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia signed the Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord, formally bringing to an end a bloody conflict that has redrawn the map of Europe, leaving more than 200,000 dead and nearly three million homeless.

But as the leaders of the former Yugoslav republics were preparing to shake hands over the pact at the Elysée Palace in Paris, a French United Nations helicopter was hit by gunfire from Bosnian government troops, an attack that indicates just how elusive a lasting peace may be in the war-shattered Balkans.

"Bosnia must find a way, with God's grace, to lay down the hatred, to give up the revenge, to go forward together," President Clinton said as he joined John Major, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and more than 50 other world leaders to witness yesterday's signing ceremony, at which the host was President Chirac of France.

After signing the agreement with President Milosevic of Serbia and President Tudjman of Croatia, President Izetbegovic of Bosnia told the assembled dignitaries: "I feel like a man swallowing a bitter but useful medicine, but I can assure you we are signing this peace treaty with sincerity."

The French UN helicopter had to make an emergency landing after it was hit by small arms fire as it flew to the aid of 20 Bosnian army troops trapped by heavy snow. There were no injuries and no immediate indication of why the Bosnian troops had opened fire.

War's formal end, page 11

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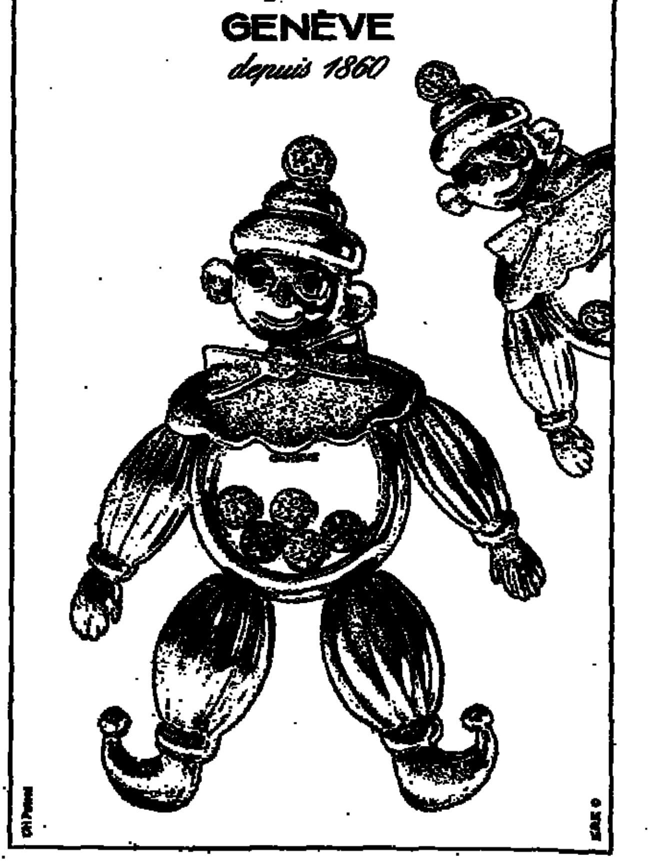

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WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS 20, 40
LETTERS 17
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Basque-baiting triggers battle of the Barbies

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

It was the battle of the blondes at the Commons yesterday. From the front bench, lips pursed and eyes aflame, rose a gorgeous, pouting, hair-tossing creature, impeccably coiffed. And that was just Michael Heseltine. Ready for battle opposite him was the honey-blonde Shadow Leader of the House, Labour's Ann Taylor. Ash-blond *vs* honey-blonde: Barbie *vs* Barbie.

Mr Heseltine was standing in for the Prime Minister, away in Europe. But Ann Taylor? MPs scratched their heads. Where was Labour's Deputy Leader, John Prescott, who normally serves in Tony Blair's place when there isn't a real PM to question? Had Prescott done a Stephen Fry after those mixed reviews of his Budget debate performance?

Wild rumours swept the Press Gallery. One of these was that seasonal influenza had taken its toll on the *Hansard* room. Being unable to field a full army of parliamentary reporters, the Editor of *Hansard* had begged Labour's high command not to send John Prescott into the chamber, because reinforcements were simply not available should stenographers fall in battle against Mr Prescott's syntax, as stenographers often do, being carried on stretchers from the Reporters' Gallery.

The truth, it turned out, was only slightly less exotic. Prescott was in Madrid. It seems there is an international socialist conference there, and Blair's deputy is representing the Labour Party. Our hearts went out to the Madrid team of simultaneous translators, quaking in their headphones, awaiting Mr Prescott's arrival. To test their mettle, they might try simultaneously translating this from that budget speech into Spanish, Catalan and Basque …

(Senōr Juan Prescott): "*And then of course there was the night the other question of the assault this weekend on people's attitudes and minds about the approach to the Budget.*"

Que? Or they could try: "*… and we'll come to in a second, just because the Hon Member has discovered private finance initiatives, let us tell him, we were talking about this Dispatch Box when the Government was constantly telling us you couldn't have, and …*" The thought occurs that Mr Prescott's speeches may in fact have been translated *from* the Basque. In his place yesterday, Ann Taylor confidently berated Michael Heseltine over what she alleged was the cost of rail privatisation. Heseltine dealt in relaxed style with her enquiries, and was hitting most questions for easy twos, when an unexpected opportunity for a six came his way.

It was on the last question, from another Ann: Ann Clwyd, former overseas aid spokesman, sacked by Tony Blair earlier this year. Bitterness lingers. Clwyd's harpoon, ostensibly aimed at Heseltine, sank itself instead into "new" Labour. Tower Colliery in her constituency, she told the House, which Heseltine had once wanted to close, had just returned a £3 million profit after reopening as a co-operative. That proved what you could do "if you give the workers control of the means of production". Hezza waded in.

Spin doctors quailed. Peter Mandelson (Lab, new, Hartelpool), always pale, blanched a whiter shade. Thoroughly Modern Mo Mowlam rushed out — no doubt for her mobile phone: "Tony! Quick! Come back! You leave the House for just one afternoon and the Left are all over the shop!"

When her pit was threatened, Ms Clwyd staged a protest sit-in at the bottom of a mineshaft. To judge by the look on Mandelson's face she may soon be back there.

Privatisation postponed for a year

Student loans delay leaves £100m hole in education budget

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

Forth: blamed mergers and new technology

PLANS to privatise student loans are to be postponed by a year, Eric Forth, the Education Minister, announced yesterday. The delay will prevent the adoption of a new system before the next election.

The announcement, only a week after MPs had begun debating the Bill, leaves a £100 million hole in the Department for Education and Employment's budget for next year. The Chancellor had identified immediate savings from the transfer of liabilities from the Student Loans Company next October.

Ministers had hoped that banks and building societies would take over in the next academic year, but the institutions have proved reluctant to participate. Mr Forth told the Commons committee debating the Bill that private lenders wanted more time to prepare a scheme.

Labour said the announcement proved that the privatisation plan was "a flop". Only two days ago, the Government had voted down an amendment proposing that the scheme should be delayed.

Debate on the Student Loans Bill will continue on the Government's original timetable, but the target date for implementation will slip to October 1997, after the latest date for a general election. Mr Forth told MPs that complications presented by bank mergers and new technology were among the reasons. A department spokeswoman said: "We have listened to what the banks had to say during consultation."

Some banks, including the Midland, have already told the Government that they are not prepared to administer student loans at subsidised rates. But the department insisted yesterday that others were interested in the scheme.

However, Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, claimed the Government had been forced into the postponement by lack of interest among the major banks. "It is extraordinary that the Government introduced legislation before it had agreement with the banks that any of them were prepared to take part."

A spokesman for the National Union of Students said: "The banks and students themselves saw the flaws in this scheme. Now the Government does as well."

A National Audit Office report disclosed last month that outstanding loans total more than £1 billion, and that the company believes £142 million will never be recovered. The Government is keen for banks and building societies to take much of the strain of loans, leaving the Student Loan Company to act as a safety net.

Last month's Budget settlement assumed savings of £100 million in 1996-97, rising to £200 million the next year and £250 million thereafter. The department acknowledged that the savings would no longer be available.

Protests force delay on asylum benefit curb

PETER LILLEY has postponed plans to withdraw welfare benefits from asylum seekers next month after protests that the proposals had not been debated by MPs (Arthur Leathley writes).

The Government said yesterday that its plans to stop payments for 13,000 asylum seekers would not be implemented by the Social Security Secretary's January 8 target. The Commons will debate them in the new year.

Several councils with large numbers of asylum seekers, including Tory-controlled Westminster, had complained that they would be responible for housing, food and clothing costs until the Asylum and Immigration Bill becomes law later next year.

MARTIN BEDDALL

John Witheridge in front of Eton College chapel, where he is senior chaplain

Eton churchman to head scandal-hit Charterhouse

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Rev John Witheridge, senior chaplain at Eton College, is to be the new Headmaster of Charterhouse school.

The appointment comes three months after Peter Hobson, the former headmaster, resigned amid allegations that he had consorted with a prostitute.

Governors at the £12,000-a-year school in Godalming, Surrey, moved quickly to select a new head and hired NB Selection, a London recruitment agency, to draw up a shortlist of candidates. Mr Witheridge, 42, said yesterday that he faced five and a half hours of interviews.

He dismissed the scandal surrounding Mr Hobson as "an unfortunate incident that has now become history". There would be no need to take any particular action to repair damage to the school, and Clive Carter, the acting head, was doing a good job. "Morale is high at the school."

Mr Witheridge, once private secretary to the Right Rev Robert (now Lord) Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, will take up the position in September next year.

He was educated at St Albans School and Kent University at Canterbury, where he won a double first in English and theology. He continued his studies at Christ's College, Cambridge, and later at Ridley Hall.

He was a curate in Luton before joining Marlborough College in 1982 as assistant chaplain and head of religious studies. After two years he went to Lambeth Palace and became senior chaplain at Eton in 1987. Earlier this year, he attacked the Church of England as politically correct, left-wing and sectarian.

In an article published in 100,000 parish magazines, he said: "Women's rights, gay rights, black rights, bias to the poor; you name it, the Church has supported it until Christian theology has begun to sound like sociology, and priests like social workers."

Although many in the Church supported his views, Mr Witheridge did receive one death threat. "It gave me a completely new reputation with the boys," he said.

Mr Witheridge, who lectures on classical history on specialist Mediterranean cruises, is married to Sarah, 40, and has four children. Charlotte, 17 and Harriet, 14, are both at Benenden School in Kent. George, 12, and Henry, 9, are both at Caldicote prep school in Farnham.

Pill scare fruitless says The Lancet

Women who changed their brand of contraceptive pill after a government safety warning last month need not have done so, a specialist has said. Four research reports to be published in *The Lancet* tomorrow, which formed the basis of the Government warning, show that certain brands of the Pill double the risk of blood clots in leg veins. However, the absolute risk of taking these brands is one extra death in one million users each year.

Dr Noel Weiss of the University of Washington, says it is uncertain whether some women are at much higher risk of clots or whether the pills reduce the risk of other serious conditions. Until this information is available, "women will not have a sound basis for making a decision".

Sex change ruling

A British school worker who was dismissed after having a sex change should not have been sacked, the European Court ruled yesterday. The transsexual was a man when he was hired by a Cornish school, but was fired soon after announcing his intention to become a woman. The court said transsexuals were entitled to protection under the 1976 Equal Opportunities directive.

TV licence mistake

The Heritage Department has admitted asking 50p too much for next year's television licences. An "administrative error" resulted in the price of a colour licence being announced to Parliament two weeks ago as £90 when the figure should have been £89.50, heritage minister Sebastian Coe said. Black and white licences will still be £30 after April 1, he said.

RUC overtime halved

RUC overtime was cut by 50 per cent in the year to June, saving almost £8.5 million, because of the IRA and loyalist ceasefires, the Police Authority for Northern Ireland said. The "peace dividend" meant that the authority underspent its budget of £621 million by £20 million in total. The Northern Ireland Office has confirmed that the 150-year-old Crumlin Road prison in Belfast is to close next spring.

Buried-house man freed

A man jailed a week ago for burying his illegally built house under a mound of earth to fool planning inspectors has been freed by the High Court after apologising for his contempt. The court was told that Trevor Sedgbeer, of *Stoke Gabriel, Devon*, had issued instructions from Pentonville, where he was serving three months, for the house be demolished. ***Bernard Levin, page 16***

Briton 'starved to death'

A British woman appears to have died from thirst and hunger after her Land Rover ran out of fuel as she was driving through a game reserve in Burkina Faso, West Africa. A skeleton found in the vehicle on December 6 has been identified as that of Andrey O'Neil, 55. She is thought to have died in April. Mrs O'Neil, knowing she was dying, is believed to have kept a journal of her last days.

Parkinson's pig cure

Four patients suffering from Parkinson's disease have become the first in the world to have pig cells transplanted into their brains. The treatment for the neurological disorder is being tried by American doctors as an alternative to using brain tissue from human foetuses. The results — which are better than expected — are reported tonight on the BBC1 programme *Tomorrow's World*.

Pilots pick up school's TV

Pilots flying into Heathrow found they could hardly hear air-traffic instructions because of interference from the ground. Department of Trade investigators eventually tracked down the cause of the problem to Maylandsea primary school at Maldon, Essex, whose television booster aerial was both receiving and transmitting signals on the aircrafts' communications frequency.

Christmas defeat looms for Tories in fishing vote

By Jill Sherman and Alice Thomson

A RISK of defeat in the Commons was growing for the Government yesterday, after Ulster Unionists signalled they were ready to join a backbench Tory rebellion on the European fisheries policy.

Five Euro-rebels have indicated that they will abstain or vote against the Government next Tuesday. Three other Euro-sceptics may follow suit, arguing that nothing has changed since a similar vote last January when nine MPs rebelled.

At least two MPs with fishing constituencies have also hinted they may not support John Major in what will prove to be a crucial test of his fragile Commons majority. The Government, now with a majority of only five, could be defeated if only three Tory rebels vote against or six abstain, provided the Opposition parties vote together.

Last night Government whips were already whispering about the danger of a confidence motion. Many MPs saw this as sabre-rattling, but Mr Major would not want a demoralising defeat the day before the Christmas recess.

Business managers switched the vote from Monday to Tuesday, hoping that many Opposition MPs would not be present, having decided to leave early for the Christmas holidays. But last night Labour and the Liberal Democrats confirmed they were applying a three-line whip and the Ulster Unionists indicated that eight of their nine MPs would be present to vote against the Government. Last January the Ulster Unionists saved the Government from an embarrassing defeat: six of the party voted with the Conservatives while three abstained.

Labour has announced that it will table its own amendment, criticising Britain's negotiating stance on the common fisheries policy. It will be drafted to attract the support of potential Tory rebels. The Liberal Democrats suggested they would support a Labour amendment provided that it was not too anti-European.

Two of the Tories' West Country MPs may also abstain. Robert Hicks, the independent-minded MP for Cornwall South East, is a staunch supporter of the fishermen. He has announced that he is standing down at the next election and party officials are worried that he will not feel the need to toe the party line.

David Harris, Tory MP for St Ives, made it clear in the House yesterday that he was still angry over the Government's refusal to stand up for British fishermen against their Spanish counterparts.

Tory MPs who were planning to leave London on Tuesday morning are said to be furious that a three-line whip has been applied. Whips heard complaints from one MP who had booked his family's flight to the Bahamas, another who should have been off to South Africa, and a dozen more who had organised European trips.

Opinion to be sought on cheap legal work

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Law Society's leaders yesterday drew back from endorsing measures to eradicate cut-price conveyancing. Instead they voted to take leading counsel's opinion.

Solicitors' leaders also voted to canvass the views of the profession in a move that averted a split within the 75-strong governing council of the Law Society.

The decision to proceed cautiously with plans to bring in minimum guideline fees and strip cut-price solicitors of their professional insurance cover was influenced by a letter from Sir Thomas Bingham, the Master of the Rolls, giving warning that any such measure could be unlawful and "contrary to public policy".

Robert Sayer, vice-president of the Law Society, who with Martin Mears, its president, is leading the move for guideline fees and insurance sanctions, said: "We have got what we wanted. The profession will now be asked its views." Mr Sayer said that there were £80 million worth of claims over conveyancing a year. "There is an inherent risk in cut price work — it is not possible to do the job properly."

John Edge, the Bournemouth solicitor who is at the forefront of the campaign within the profession for action on cut-price fees, and has the backing of 12,000 solicitors, said: "I am glad the profession is now taking an interest in these matters."

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مكتبة امن الاهل

Brixton riot: peaceful picket over death in cells escalated after inflammatory speech

Rich pickings for looters who used mobile phones

By Stephen Farrell and Adrian Lee

THE Brixton riot was orchestrated by young men using mobile phones to outflank police and pinpoint lucrative targets. Gangs of looters plundered Christmas stock, taking £110 trainers and designer clothes but ignoring cheaper brands.

A hardware store on Acre Lane was looted of tools and the offices of a Caribbean newspaper above were stripped of expensive computer equipment. The building was then set alight. As clearing up continued yesterday the cost of the riot was put at £1 million and there was anger that years of work after the civil unrest of the 1980s had gone up in smoke.

THE RIOT

The events leading to the riot began with a peaceful picket outside Brixton police station at 6.30 pm. The National Black Caucus, a pressure group, organised a protest at the death of Wayne Douglas, 25, a black man who died in police custody last week after he was arrested on a charge of aggravated burglary.

Rudy Narayan, a former barrister, was the most inflammatory speaker to address the crowd of about 125. He described the police as "killers" and said: "If a policeman is killed because he is behaving badly I will not fret." His speech provoked chants of "murderers" from the crowd.

Linda Bellos, a former left-wing Labour leader of Lambeth council, told the crowd that the long police batons used during Mr Douglas's arrest last week should be banned. She said: "If this had happened to a white person, the press would be jumping up and down."

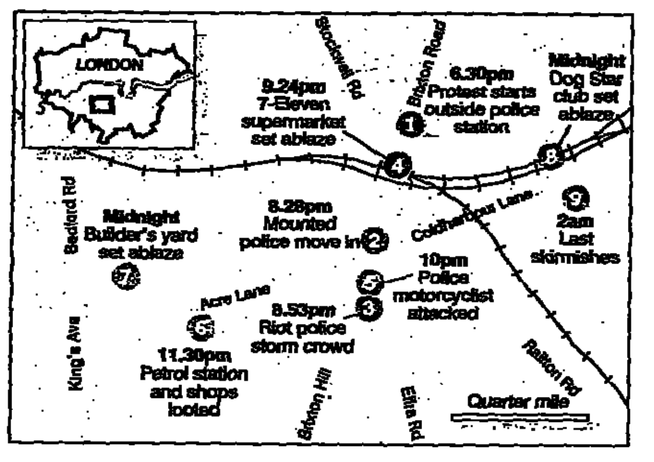
Nevertheless, most people began to drift away an hour later, police said, when the organisers "irresponsibly" began a march down Brixton Road. A line of police tried to stop the demonstrators but could not contain them and scuffles broke out during which stones were thrown at the police station.

The first bottle was thrown soon after 8 pm as the crowd reassembled near the Ritzy cinema. Youths appeared from side streets, some wearing masks.

Over the next 90 minutes police, backed by reinforcements carrying riot shields, were caught in a series of running battles in the streets around the centre of Brixton. The 7-Eleven shop was petrol bombed and looted at 9.24. Six staff fled from the advancing mob through the back door.

Police quickly sealed off the centre, but found the troublemakers were outside the cordon, attacking shops and burning cars. PC John Tisshaw, a police motorcyclist, was dragged from his bike at the junction of Brixton Road and Acre Lane and assaulted by a group of youths at 10 pm. Ten minutes later gunshots were heard by police outside the Ritzy.

The scene of the riot was marked by burnt-out cars


LONDON
Stockwell Rd
Brixton Road
6.30pm Protest starts outside police station
Midnight Dog Star club set ablaze
9.24pm 7-Eleven supermarket set ablaze
1
4
8
Bedford Rd
Midnight Builder's yard set ablaze
7
8.28pm Mounted police move in
2
Coldharbour Lane
9
2am Last skirmishes
10pm Police motorcyclist attacked
5
3
Acre Lane
8.53pm Riot police storm crowd
6
11.30pm Petrol station and shops looted
King's Ave
Brixton Hill
Effra Rd
Railton Rd
Quarter mile

The police cordon moved along the main streets — Acre Lane, Brixton Hill, Coldharbour Lane and Railton Road — relying on radios and a helicopter to pinpoint the latest flare-up. One officer said: "You can see them in the side streets, telling each other where to go on their mobile phones."

The helicopter searchlight sweept the area, picking out trouble spots. Burglar alarms sounded everywhere between 10.30 and midnight as the riot reached its peak. At 11 pm a grinning youth appeared from behind Morley's department store with two pillows in their cellophane wrapper. He walked casually past the line of 20 helmeted policemen. "Oy, drop it. Drop it now you cheeky bastard," one policeman shouted. Shrugging, the youth dropped his loot and shouted: "OK, I'll just go and get another one," before running off.

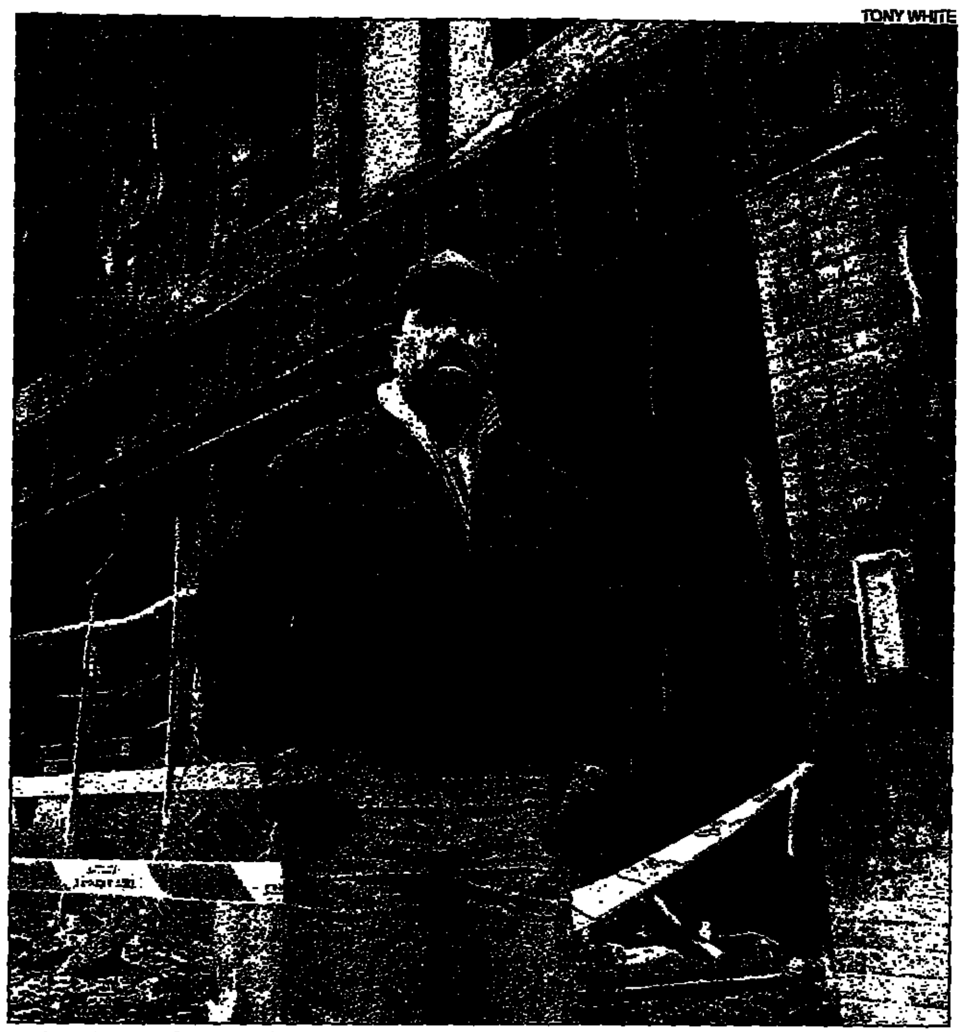
The first glazing firm arrived at 12.45 am when police claimed to have the situation under control. The last skirmishes were over by 2 am. Frank Johnson, 60, arrived at his sportswear store in Ferndale Road in the early hours to find it looted. Security grilles installed the week before at a cost of £1,800 had been ripped out and the door broken down, apparently by someone with a sledgehammer.

Empty boxes littered the pavement as the mob helped itself to trainers and sportswear worth tens of thousands of pounds. "These people were just nicking stuff for Christmas," said Mr Johnson, who founded the business in 1969 and was a victim of the 1981 disturbances. He said: "In 1981 police got here quickly and stopped them. Last night it took them 20 minutes and by then it was too late. The police were apologetic, they said they had more than they could handle." His daughter Debbie, 28, said: "They went for the best stuff — Nike and Reebok trainers, worth £110 a pair and replica sports kits at £50 a time. You can see what they left, cheap trainers, socks and all the stuff they didn't want." Scotland Yard admitted yesterday that it had been taken by surprise by the extent of the rioting. A spokesman said: "We were not expecting any serious trouble. We have had demonstrations outside police stations before and they have always gone smoothly."

A senior fire officer on duty on Wednesday was also at the centre of the 1981 riot. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Lou Gill said: "We were not prepared for the first Brixton riot and I found it totally and utterly frightening. It is unnerving to have someone trying to hit you with a scaffold pole when you are trying to put out fires.

"In 1981 you could feel it coming but there has been a rejuvenation of Brixton and I have faith that this is just a minor hiccup. I have seen a lot worse."

TONY WHITE



Lee Jasper, leader of the National Black Caucus, stands in front of a burnt-out building. Mr Lee organised the police station vigil which degenerated into violence. He said: "With hindsight one would have liked to have avoided it"

Burglary suspect whose arrest led to violence on the streets

Douglas: died in police cell

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

WAYNE DOUGLAS, whose death in a police cell sparked hours of rioting in Brixton on Wednesday night, had been arrested on suspicion of aggravated burglary at a flat in south London. Mr Douglas, 25, was in possession of a knife when he was detained by police using the American-style long batons intended to give them greater protection.

Mr Douglas, who had previous convictions for burglary and robbery, was detained at about 2.30am on Tuesday last week by police officers investigating reports of a burglary in south London in which a man broke into homes and threatened householders with a knife. He allegedly stole bread and then was chased to a nearby children's playground where he was arrested.

Police claimed that Mr Douglas threatened officers with knives several times after he fled from a flat in Brixton Way where he had terrorised the occupants.

Unidentified witnesses claimed in this week's *Caribbean Times* that Mr Douglas was beaten by police. One said: "What I saw was horrific. They were jumping on him, kicking him, hitting him with their batons. Some of them were sitting on him."

THE CATALYST

Another alleged in *The Voice*: "Police were kicking and punching him. You could hear the sound of their batons on his bones. They told him to drop the knife and as soon as he did they jumped and dragged him into the park. He did not stand a chance." Other witnesses agreed that police used excessive force in arresting Mr Douglas, who was taken to Brixton police station at about 3am. He was found dead in a cell about 30 minutes later.

Officers attempted to resuscitate Mr Douglas, who had been living in a hostel for the homeless at Crystal Palace, south London, for the past six months. He was taken to King's College Hospital, south-east London, where he was pronounced dead.

A post-mortem examination was carried out at Greenwich by a Home Office pathologist on the day of Mr Douglas's death. It was found that death was due to heart failure because of a defect in his heart.

The pathologist recorded a number of bruises on the dead man's body but said that those injuries could not have caused his death. An inquest was opened and adjourned at Southwark Coronor's Court last Monday. A date for the full inquest has not been set.

Mr Douglas's family complained that the post-mortem was carried out without their knowledge and have ordered a second examination which is to be done next Tuesday.

The Police Complaints Authority is investigating the circumstances surrounding Mr Douglas's death.

Mr Douglas was born in Dulwich, south London, to immigrant parents. His father George came to Britain from Spanish Town in Jamaica in the 1950s and died three years ago. His mother Pearl died from cancer. He had a sister Lisa, 23, and a brother Albert, 38.

In 1987 Mr Douglas was jailed for four years for robbery. He also served a two-year sentence for burglary in 1992.

Unemployment fuels anger in the black community

IN THE 14 years since riots first erupted in Brixton, more than £200 million has been pumped into the area to combat urban dereliction and despair. Formal structures have been created to bring police and the community closer together and efforts made to combat high unemployment.

The initiatives were launched after Lord Scarman called for urgent action in the wake of the 1981 rioting.

In spite of visible improvements, some members of the black community say the money is being spent on high profile projects that do little to address unemployment among black people, which is as high as 28 per cent in some areas.

Lord Scarman said yesterday that he was "broken-hearted" about the latest violence. "It is a disappointment. This is a real tragedy." He said he would be making it his business to find out the cause. "This is a complete breakdown of everything that I tried to create . . . I am unable to judge the rights and wrongs at the moment."

He added: "I would appeal to my friends in Brixton that the important thing is to get back to the normal, lawful process of protest and politics and that nothing will be achieved by violence in the streets, be it against policemen or other people."

The Government has provided £154 million to the Labour-controlled Lambeth council since 1980 and a further £83m is earmarked up to 2004 to improve council estates in the south London borough, one of the poorest in the country. About £66 million is for the Stockwell Park and Angell housing estates near the centre of Brixton.

However, the drive to improve life in the area is being provided by Brixton Challenge, an independent company that has £37.5 million of government money to spend between 1993 and 1998 to provide job training, set up businesses, refurbish buildings and improve estates. The challenge, a partnership involving local government and the private sector, has already attracted a further £69 million from other public bodies, plus £82 million from the private sector.

As part of its work it has developed the Camberwell Foyer, which provides accommodation and training for 80 homeless young people for two years; the Baytree Centre, which offers training in information technology and secretarial skills to black women wanting to return to work; and has helped a businessman to open a sandwich bar offering jobs and training to people who have never worked.

The Ritzy has been refurbished into a multiscreen art house cinema with low cost accommodation to rent nearby. Sue Brown, who deals with publicity for Brixton Challenge, said the fabric of Brixton had improved enormously and opportunities were being offered to locals.

"We are bringing new opportunities to Brixton. Brixton is becoming a leisure and entertainment centre. I do not think anyone is suggesting that one programme can deal with everything."

Unemployment across Lambeth is about 18 per cent, compared with 11.4 per cent for Greater London. In Townhall ward, in the centre of Brixton, it is 21.2 per cent and 27.2 per cent in Angell ward.

Some members of the black community lack faith in the police consultative committee set up to try to improve relations between police and the community. It is dominated by white people and, according to some black people, is not taken seriously by younger members of the community, increasingly angered at being stopped by the police when they are on the streets or in their cars.

However, Lloyd Leon, a former chairman of the committee, defended its role. "If black people do not want to be involved, that is their problem. It was set up for them. They only come when there is a problem. Many a time we have discussed drugs because that worries the community and the number of mentally ill people on the streets. We do have influence on the way policing takes place".

Lord Scarman, who said the riots were "a complete breakdown" of everything that he had tried to create

Yard chief attacks incitement to riot

Continued from page 1

there is a crisis in race relations in this country."

He called for the immediate suspension of the officers involved in arresting Mr Douglas, the withdrawal of long-handled batons and an investigation into the operation of Brixton police.

The police countered, however, with their own leaflet campaign yesterday when they issued pamphlets entitled *Local disorder — the facts*. It said that Mr Douglas died of a heart condition and that he suffered no physical injuries that could have contributed to his death. It added that after he collapsed, "police officers made strenuous efforts to revive him" and that his death was the subject of an independent investigation.

Earlier at his press conference, Sir Paul said that he understood there were people genuinely concerned about deaths in custody. Mr Douglas was a wanted criminal when he was arrested by police, he brandished a knife and was disarmed. There was a struggle and he was taken to the police station where he fell ill.

Sir Paul emphasised that Douglas, a violent criminal, had died from a heart failure and to date there was no evidence to link his death to police action. He dismissed any comparison between the death and the attack on Rodney King in Los Angeles.

The Commissioner also said that he understood that up to three shots had been fired during the rioting on Wednesday — only the second time that firearms had been used during such disturbances on the mainland — and armed police were deployed for the first time in response. It is not known whether the shots were aimed at the police.

Eleven vehicles, including a coach, were overturned or set on fire and their shells still lined the streets and glaziers and window boarders got to work in the aftermath yesterday. While up to 300 extra police were on standby in case of further violence last night, they hoped the severe cold would deter troublemakers.

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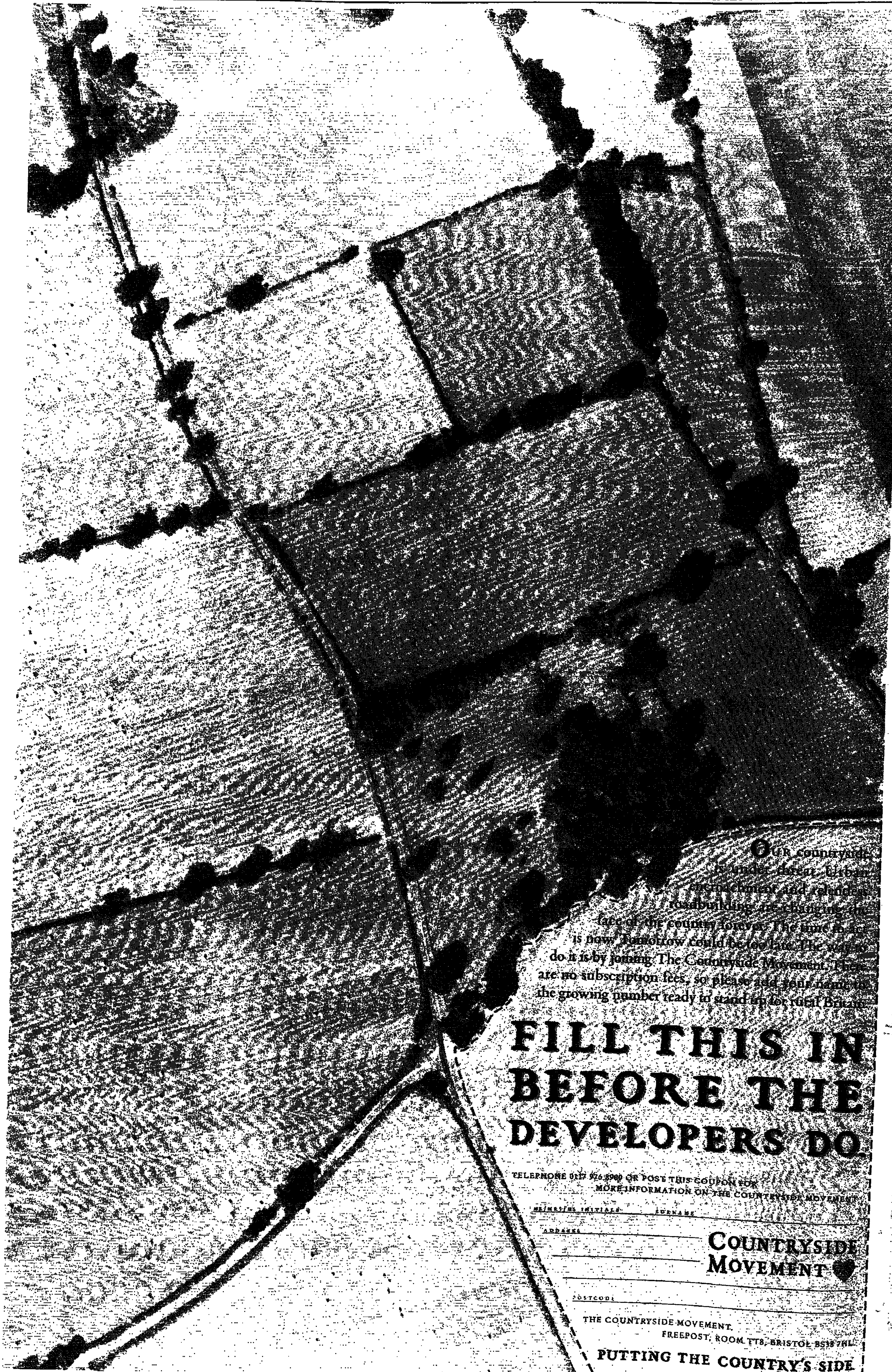

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Jury accepts trombonist died making love and that girlfriend tried to spare his wife embarrassment

Mistress cleared of killing lover from village band

By Kathryn Knight

A WOMAN was cleared yesterday of killing her lover, after a trial that brought to light a ten-year affair between two married members of a village band.

A jury took just 40 minutes to clear euphonia player Pollyanna Peate, 34, of the manslaughter of bass trombonist Brian Phillips, 62. She left court hugging her husband Graham, who wept as the verdict was given.

The prosecution had claimed that Mrs Peate caused her lover to have a heart attack, as they sat in his parked car near local marshes, by punching him when he said their affair had to end. She said he died making love, and that she dressed him and left him in his car to fulfil a pact that she would never cause his wife embarrassment.

Mr Peate had attended court throughout the four-day trial at Chester Crown Court, and struggled to hold back tears as he told reporters: "We are very relieved it is all over and that Polly has been vindicated." Later, via her solicitors, Mrs Peate, a mother-of-two, said she wanted to resume a normal life.

Mr Phillips's widow Sybil, who had been his wife for nearly 40 years, did not attend the trial.

The jury of seven women and five men had been directed by Mr Justice Tucker not to judge the ethics of the situation. He referred to Mrs Peate's "disgraceful" conduct in having the affair, but said: "You are not here to judge the morality of what took place."

The court had been told how the lovers met after playing together in Frodsham Silver Band. They managed to keep their affair secret from their partners but not from their fellow musicians.

Mrs Peate, of Runcorn, Cheshire, had started the affair not long after the birth of her second child, and told the court she loved her husband and had been happy with him, though he had been a gambler.

The couple are both "born-again" Christians and members of Booth Chapel Evangelical Church in Runcorn.

When police had questioned Mr Peate he said: "I would describe my marriage as perfect. My wife and I get on together and I trust her implicitly."

Mrs Peate, originally from the West Bromwich area, had worked for a while in a supermarket and a pub, before giving music lessons part-time.

Mr Phillips, a grandfather, was a blacksmith at a car plant. His wife met Mrs Peate when the band was performing, but was totally unaware of the relationship with her husband, whom she married when she was 19. She told police: "The affair has come as a great shock to me. I have never suspected him throughout our marriage of having any affairs."

Statements from other band members told of the chemistry between the music-loving couple. One of them, Carolyn Hoppley, met her second husband Terence through the Frodsham band, both leaving their spouses to set up home with each other. She told police that she had heard Mr Phillips joke about "going down to the marshes".

Robert Fletcher, a bass player, told police: "It became common knowledge throughout the band that a relationship had formed. They were inseparable."

After an evening rehearsal on November 15 last year, the lovers made their usual drive to Frodsham Marshes, near the Mersey estuary, where they parked and made love. Mr Philips had told Mrs Peate that the relationship was to end. Mrs Peate told the jury of her efforts to revive Mr Phillips in the tight confines of the car after he suffered a heart attack. She said: "We were making love. He collapsed. I said something like 'Brian, what's the matter?'

"I dropped his head while I was cradling him. He fell with a bang on the back of his head. Eventually I realised I had to go home. I had to get my senses together."

She told the court she had made a pact with Mr Phillips to leave him if he died in embarrassing circumstances. "He told me to leave him, run like hell and not tell anyone. I did say once I could not do it, and he said 'If you love me you would carry out what I ask'."

Fulfilling their pact, Mrs Peate dressed Mr Phillips before walking back into Frodsham and taking a taxi home. Her lover's body was found on the back seat of his car by a policeman, and Mrs Peate was arrested after marks were allegedly discovered on his body.

She was alleged to have punched him four times. She said: "He died having sex. That's how it happened. I've got nothing to admit."

In harmony: Pollyanna Peate with her husband Graham after the verdict. He had trusted his wife implicitly

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How stress and strain can lead to fatal illness

MEDICAL BRIEFING

GLOOMY old men reading the obituary columns of a newspaper in their clubs frequently draw the attention of their fellow members to colleagues who have failed to survive retirement, or others who have rapidly followed a long-time spouse to the graveyard.

Is it chance, or do people react to adverse happenings in their life by developing cancer, or other fatal diseases? In the latest *British Medical Journal* there was a report of an analysis of the occurrence of what it referred to as "severe life events" and their possible link to the onset of breast cancer in women. A Chinese doctor from Taiwan co-operated with the department of psychological medicine and the breast screening unit at King's College Hospital, London, in an exploration of the five years in the life of a woman before she developed a breast tumour.

Minor stresses and strains, or even a long battle to survive a difficult hard life, did not seem to affect the incidence of the cancer but personally threatening or major events that would cause an unpleasant and disturbing upheaval in the woman's life did. The doctors showed that even when allowance had been made for age and other confounding factors, there was still a marked association between severe stress and the development of breast cancer.

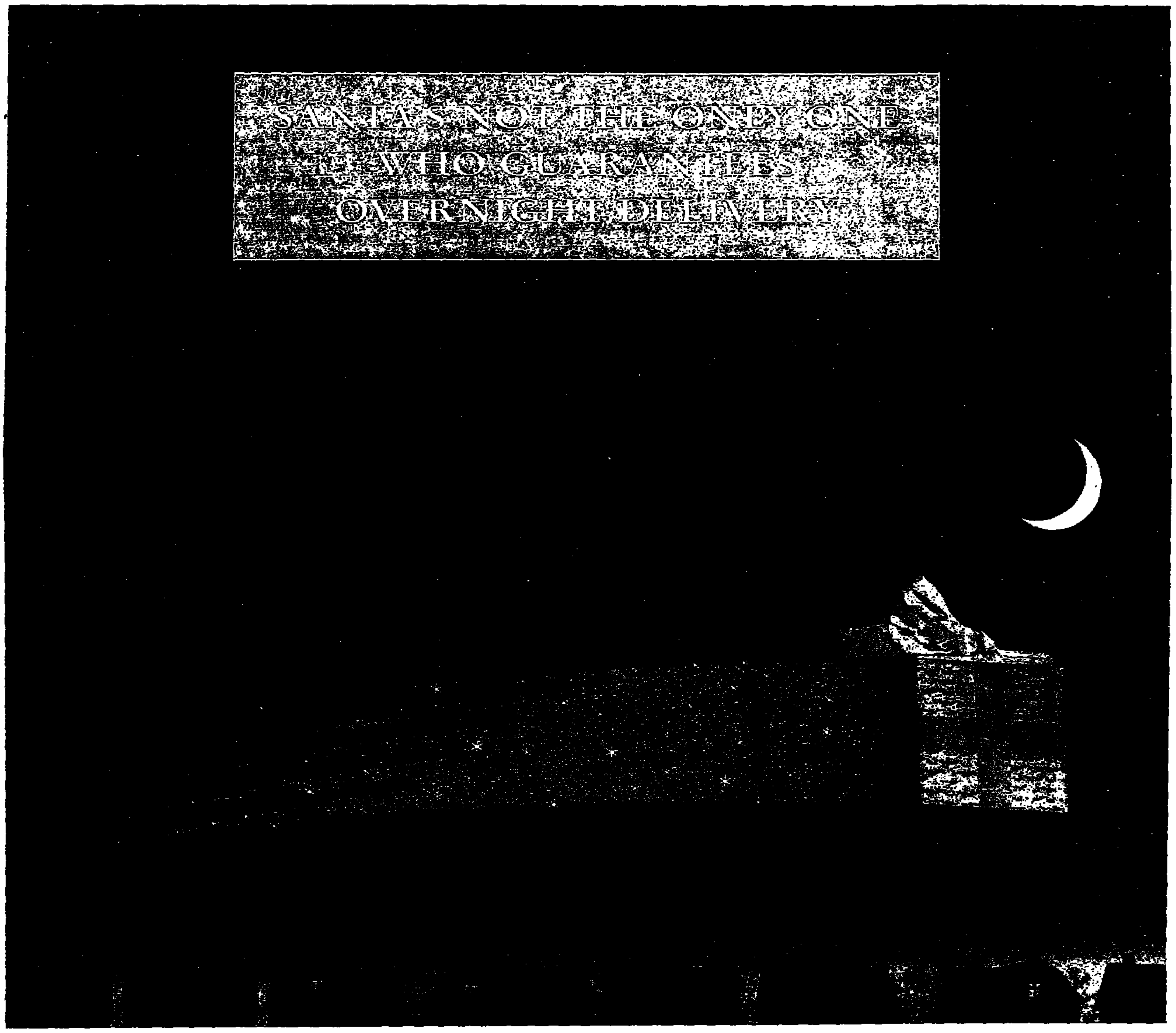
The King's College research was an important talking point at a reception given by the Prince of Wales at St James's Palace this week for the Bristol Cancer Help Centre. The Bristol group has long maintained that there is a close association between the patient's mental approach to the disease and its development, progress after diagnosis, and final outcome. The King's College report gave the group further statistical backing for its belief.

The Bristol centre, which has been of special interest for the Princess of Wales since 1983, aims to provide an integrated approach in the treatment of cancer patients: it doesn't disparage conventional medicine and their patients take the prescribed Tamoxifen or Taxol as readily as the next person. At Bristol, however, they complement the standard therapeutic regime by providing close emotional support, dietary and lifestyle advice, relaxation and meditation. Patients are encouraged to focus on their rehabilitation and recovery and those who have little hope of recovery are encouraged to enjoy their last months or years.

The lesson that even the most experienced doctors can never predict, with absolute certainty, the outcome in cancer patients was exemplified by the presence of Jenny Jackson at St James's Palace. In 1987 she had two thirds of her liver removed for a primary liver tumour. The surgeons found that the apparently healthy remaining third had already been infiltrated and she was given six months to live.

But on Wednesday, eight years later, looking very healthy and with no evidence now of any cancer, Jenny was presented to the Prince of Wales. Why some people do well despite the odds is still unknown, but at Bristol they think that they have some of the answers.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD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Cruel-sports campaigner quits

Director claims he was hounded out by animal extremists

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

MONTHS of turmoil in the League Against Cruel Sports culminated yesterday in the departure of James Barrington, the executive director, who is accused of undermining the campaign to abolish hunting.

Lord Soper, president of the league and a lifelong opponent of fox-hunting, is also to resign, partly for reasons of health and partly because he wishes to distance himself from the feud.

Mr Barrington, 43, who had held the post since 1988, said his position had been made untenable. He added: "I am taking legal advice as to whether I have grounds for suing the league for constructive dismissal."

Lord Soper said: "I will be 93 in January. I presided over the meeting on December 3 which failed to resolve the dispute and now I think it right to stay out of this quarrel and leave it to others to settle. I remain totally opposed to hunting."

Mr Barrington had been under severe pressure since he gave an interview to *The Field* two months ago in which he appeared to soften the league's anti-hunting line. He suggested the sport could be made more acceptable if hunters abandoned the practice of using terriers to dig out foxes which go to ground.

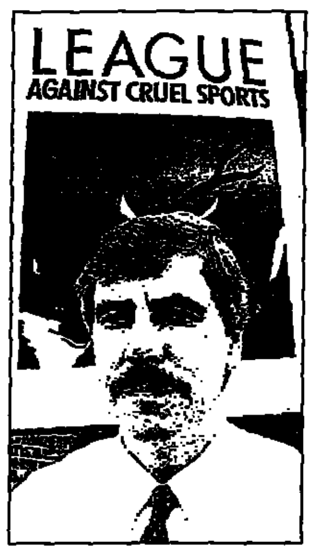
Were that to happen, he told the magazine, "the league would feel less antagonistic towards hunting. It would have a new lease of life and a longer future than at present." The remarks appalled activists, who accused him of aiding and abetting the enemy.

Mr Barrington had also provoked anger by dismissing two senior members of staff — Kevin Saunders, the press officer, and Michelle Bryan, an administrative assistant. Mr Saunders was reinstated at a meeting of the league on Wednesday night.

At the meeting on December 3, Mr Barrington lost a vote of no-confidence and was placed under a gagging order that prevented him discussing his views on hunting with the press.

"My position was made quite impossible," he said yesterday. "The people who have taken over have other agendas. They are like a pack with the scent of blood in their nostrils and will not be satisfied with getting rid of me.

"I think there are some who will want to go not just for hunting and shooting but for angling as well and they will wreck this organisation. I fear for the future of the league. It is on a course which is doomed to disaster."



Barrington: appalled the league's activists

John Bryant, the league's head of press relations, said there was no danger of the league going in the direction suggested by Mr Barrington. Mr Barrington was leaving because he no longer had the confidence of the executive committee whose orders he had refused to carry out.

Mr Bryant said: "We seek an end to all hunting with dogs, and we are opposed to the shooting of birds and animals for sport, but we have never had a policy on angling. Some of our members are anglers and the issue has never been raised in the league's 71-year history.

"We would welcome it if the hunting fraternity decided to make their sport less cruel, but it is not for us to suggest compromises. Our position must remain one of total opposition to any form of hunting. This is particularly so when we have the prospect of a Labour Government pledged to ban the sport."

The chairman of the league's executive committee, Howard Hodges, a supporter of Mr Barrington who was elected last month after the previous incumbent resigned, is considering his position.

"It's a real mess," he said. "The committee is a mix of malice, muddled thinking and petty jealousies and my position has been made very difficult."

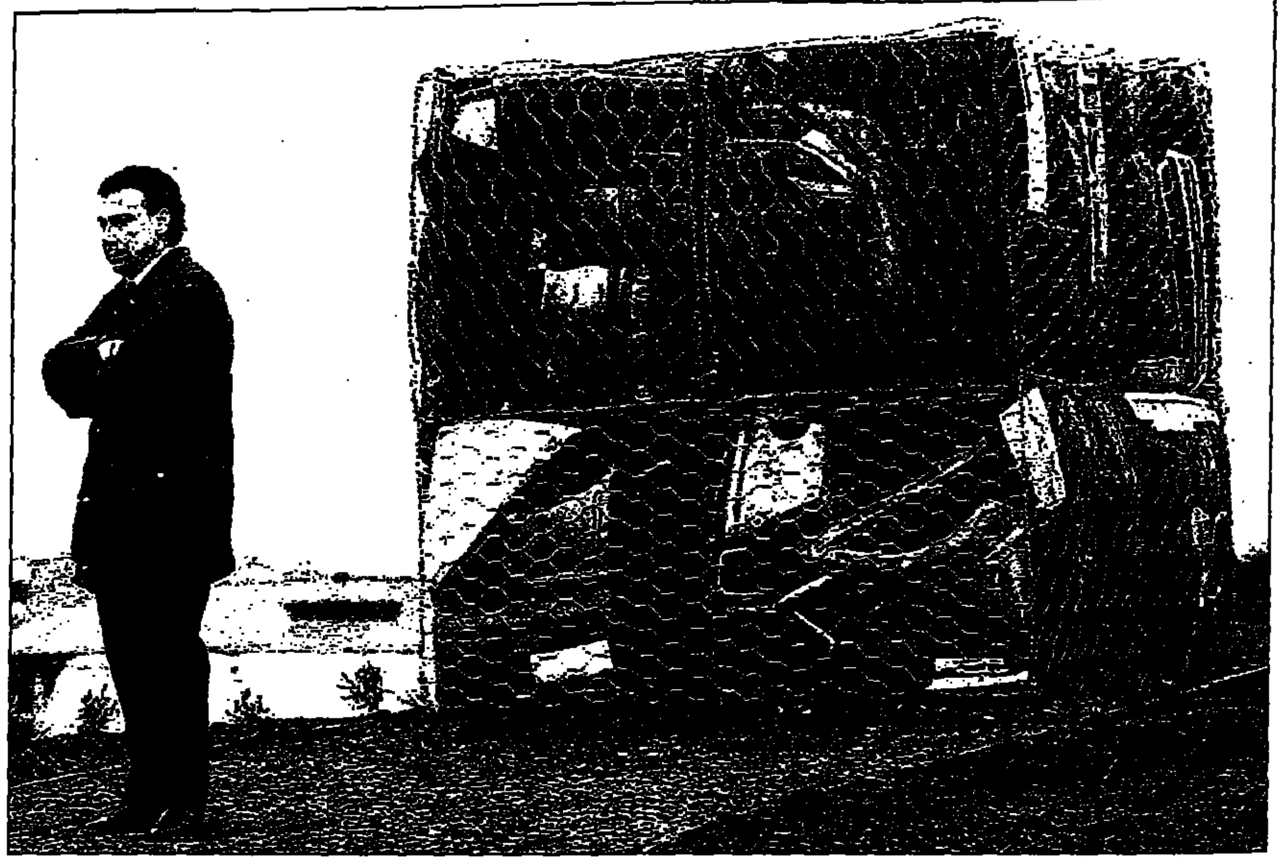
The league is no stranger to internecine warfare. Mr Barrington's predecessor, Richard Course, was also forced to leave after falling out with his rank-and-file members. He subsequently came out in favour of hunting as the least cruel way of controlling foxes.

Ironically, Mr Course now believes that it would be more logical for the league to focus on shooting and angling. "At least in the case of fox-hunting you have the excuse you are taking part in a form of pest control," he said. "Anglers could be said to be tormenting a fellow creature for sport."

Janet George, of the British Field Sports Society, said the hunting community would be sorry to see Mr Barrington go: "He was a reasonable man, and it is always sad to see a reasonable man driven out by extremist elements."

The league, founded in 1924, has an annual income of around £1.5 million. It has about 17,000 voting members and a similar number of non-voting donors and supporters.

RUSSELL SACH



A disapproving Andrew Eade with the "Island of Hope". He wants Virginia Bottomley to take the money back

Accident? No, it's art, in a roundabout way

A PILE of scrap metal and bollards on a roundabout is no accident. It is a £30,000 work of art financed by Lottery funds and intended to symbolise the stages of mankind.

Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, was facing calls for the money to be taken back from Wrekin District Council, Shropshire, as similar artworks were being planned for two more traffic islands.

Andrew Eade, Tory group leader on the Labour-run council, has written to Mrs Bottomley about the sculpture created from the public arts fund in Telford. He said: "It looks like a load of crashed cars — hardly the most soothing picture for the passing motorist."

The *Island of Hope* cost £6,000, paid to artist Mark Evans, and £24,000 for traffic re-routing. The council's leader, Phil Homer, said: "I like most of it. Telford has a long tradition of having something on its roundabouts."

Government acts to shore up beef sales

By Michael Hornsby

THE Government acted yesterday to try to dispel fears over "mad cow" disease as sales of beef plummeted. Some wholesalers reported falls in sales of 25 per cent, but the Meat and Livestock Commission put the overall decline at 14 per cent. Two hundred schools in Dorset are the latest to take beef off the menu.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, has appointed four new members to the scientific committee that advises him on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). All the Government could do, he said, was to act on the best possible advice.

The number of new cases of BSE so far this year were 42.6 per cent down on 1994 and 58.4 per cent down on 1993, Mr Hogg announced. He also said that the use of cattle backbone in mechanically recovered meat — used in meat pies, soups and stock cubes — would be prohibited from today. This was to "remove any risk of spinal cord tissue [thought capable of carrying BSE] entering the human food chain".

One of the new appointees to the advisory committee is John Collinge, a clinical neurologist at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, west London, who is using mice implanted with human genes to test human susceptibility to BSE.

Although livestock prices have fallen by up to 15 per cent, most supermarkets say it is too soon to pass to reductions on to customers. Tesco said if it cut prices too heavily it would give the impression there was something wrong with beef.

Venison answers call of the wild

VENISON is gaining popularity as a tasty low-cholesterol alternative to beef. Prices are stable although deer farms report a sharp increase in sales as a result of the BSE scare (Robin Young writes).

Safeway, which introduced Scottish wild venison in 1993, sells eight products. Sainsbury's offers venison from red deer raised on parkland.

Venison, being drier than beef, benefits from marinading or basting.

Promotions include:

Asda: pork whole leg £2.18 a kg, apricots 99p a lb, clementines 99p a lb.

Co-op: Norfolk duckling with giblets £4.39 for 1.9kg, whole turkey £2.49 a kg.

Harrods: cooked lobsters £23.70 a kg, stuffed turkey galantine £2.95 for 100g.

Marks & Spencer: gammon honey joint £3.99 for 510g, cheese and tomato pizza £1.89 for 370g.

Morrisons: roaster chickens £3.99 each, whole trout £2.84 a kg, frozen extra fine whole beans 49p for 454g.

Safeway: Chicken breast fillets £6.99 for 1.19kg, comice pears 45p a lb, six deep-filled mince pies 58p.

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Sainsbury's: fresh lamb leg £4.49 a kg, boneless unsmoked gammon £3.69 a kg.

Somerfield: boneless leg of pork £2.84 a kg, fresh Scottish whole salmon £4.78 a kg.

Tesco: lamb chops £6.19 a kg, boneless leg of pork £2.99 a kg, large pineapples 99p.

Waitrose: salmon steaks £2.99 lb, Aberdeen Angus roasting beef £2.99 a lb.

Venables evidence unreliable says judge

By A Staff Reporter

TERRY VENABLES, the England soccer coach, was criticised by a judge yesterday for giving evidence that was at variance with details in his autobiography. In a judgment in which his London club Scribes West was ordered to settle a bill from an advertising executive, some of his evidence on oath was condemned as "rather wanton".

Mr Recorder Williams said that some of what Mr Venables had told him "had not been entirely reliable, to put it at its most charitable". The judge said that Jeffrey Fugler, who brought the action, had proved he was entitled to the money he claimed. He said, however, that he had failed in some of his arguments and as a result, the figure of nearly £20,000 for which he had been asking would be reduced to £11,292.95 plus interest. Because of his evasiveness in giving answers, he was also going to treat a lot of what he said with "more than a pinch of salt, more likely a handful".

Mr Fugler was also told he would get only half of his estimated legal costs of £90,000. No figure was available for the costs Mr Venables's club would have to meet, but a QC and a junior barrister were retained to defend the action and the bill is likely to be in excess of £100,000.

Mr Fugler had told Central London County Court the money he was owed represented the outstanding two thirds of a £30,000 bill for distributing 20,000 brochures to advertise the England coach's then ailing club. Scribes West unsuccessfully counter-claimed a similar amount, arguing that the promotional campaign was a "top flop" — a description put forward by Mr Venables.

Mr Venables, the former chief executive at Spurs, claimed he had been the victim of a conspiracy to sabotage his chances of leading the England team to victory in next year's European championship.

The judge said, however, that Mr Venables's evidence on oath contradicted what had been written in his autobiography.

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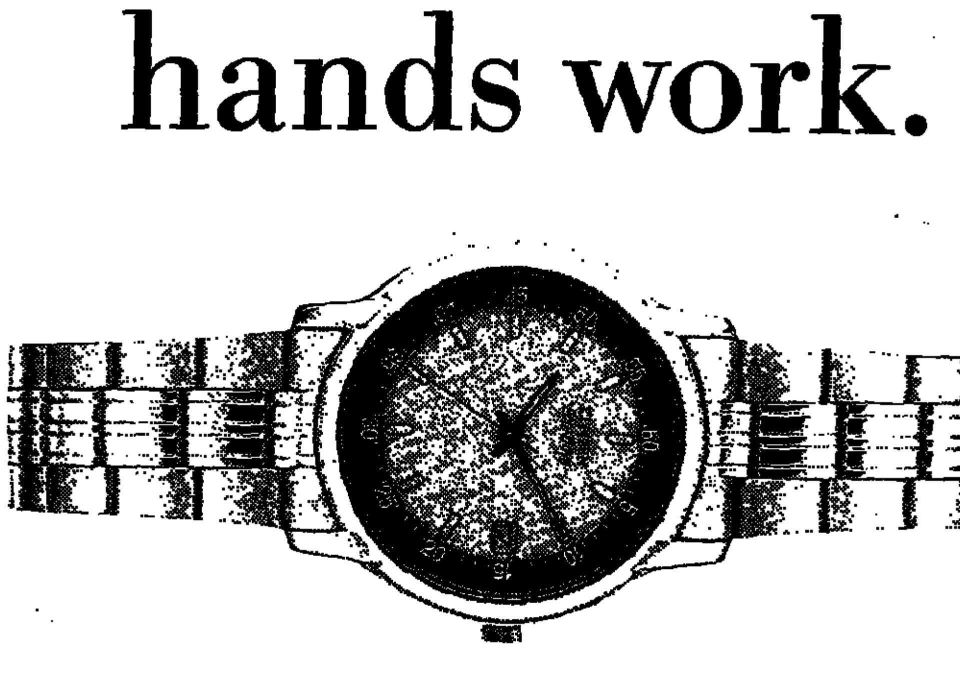

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Judge tells parents who wanted man jailed that court must 'register justice to everyone'

Manslaughter verdict sends girl's killer to mental hospital

By Kate Alderson

THE man who burst into a classroom and stabbed Nikki Conroy, 12, to death was yesterday sent to a hospital for the criminally insane. The jury at Leeds Crown Court was directed to return a verdict of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

As sentence was passed on Stephen Wilkinson, 31, Diane Conroy, Nikki's mother, burst into tears. Mrs Justice Smith told the couple, who have attended every day of the hearing, that they may find the verdict hard to accept.

"You must feel Nikki has suffered a terrible injustice, and she did, but I hope you can also bring yourself to understand that the duty of this court is to register justice to everyone," she said.

"There is not a person in this court who does not sympathise with your point of view, but I do hope you will accept this decision has not been taken lightly, but with great care by the doctors, by counsel and by me."

The judge directed the jury to return a formal verdict of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility after four forensic psychiatrists agreed that Wilkinson, unemployed from Middlesbrough, was severely mentally ill on the day of the attack. They described his condition, which began in his early teens, as paranoid psychosis or paranoid schizophrenia.

After hearing the verdict, Peter and Diane Conroy said: "We wanted him found guilty of murder. As far as we are concerned, the day he went into that school with a holdall filled with knives and an axe he knew what he was doing. We feel he was sane at the time although he may be insane now."

Mr Conroy said he was amazed at the judge's decision. "It was a bit of a shock. We had been consulted by the prosecution who asked us the day before the trial ended if we would be happy to accept a plea of manslaughter. We thought about it and decided not. We wanted a murder verdict, both for us and for Nikki's memory. Manslaughter seems to detract from the crime that was committed."

Wilkinson had denied murdering Nikki but admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and also pleaded guilty to the attempted murders of two other schoolgirls. Michelle Reeve, then 13, had 15 knife wounds inflicted on her in the attack at Hall Garth School, Acklam, Cleveland, in March last year, while Emma Winter, then 12, suffered lesser wounds.

Wilkinson: severely *mentally ill* for years

The judge ordered that Wilkinson, who burst into a classroom wearing a black balaclava and carrying a replica gun and a holdall containing three knives and an axe, be detained in Ashworth Hospital, Liverpool, for a period without limit for all three offences.

Mrs Justice Smith told the court that she would recommend that Christopher Bielby and David Eland — the teachers who burst into the classroom after seeing "blood on white shirts" and disarmed Wilkinson who was waving what they believed to be a gun — be officially commended for their actions.

"It is safe to say that everybody there that day must have suffered a great deal of trauma but I felt Mr Bielby and Mr Eland, by their actions, did in fact prevent the tragedy from being even greater," she said. "There is little doubt that if they had not done what they did we would have been today trying more than one murder case."

Mr and Mrs Conroy said they had not allowed their daughter to work as a papergirl because they thought it too dangerous but they believed she was safe in a classroom.

In the Conroy family home in Middlesbrough, pictures of Nikki fill the lounge and her portrait is the centrepiece of the room.

"She loved life and was full of fun," Mr Conroy, 44, said. "But we take comfort knowing she at least had 12 perfectly happy years which many children don't get these days. She could not have been happier than she was and we try to be brave for her."

Nikki's death prompted a thousand letters of sympathy sent to the Conroys by people they have never met. Among them are letters from Colin Parry, whose son Tim was killed in the IRA bombing at Warrington, and words of comfort from relatives of children in the M40 minibus crash. "Without the help of a lot of people we would not have got through this dreadful time," Mrs Conroy said. "We were especially touched by the letters from Tim Parry's family and relatives of the M40 crash victims. They are helpful because those parents know what we are going through. Other people say they understand but they cannot know in the same way.

"It is very difficult for us and there's not a day goes by we don't think about Nikki," Mrs Conroy said. "She will always be 12 to us and life is very, very hard without her.

"The day she was killed is still very vivid in our memories, but we always talk about Nikki and will always remember her as a very happy child. On Christmas Day we'll take flowers to the cemetery but everything we do now is just not the same without her. It will be like this forever."

Nikki Conroy pictured at the age of 11 with her brother John and her mother Diane: "Everything we do now is just not the same. It will be like this forever"

School pal who turned into a fantasising loner

By Kate Alderson

NIKKI CONROY'S killer was a friendless loner who spent his adult life hiding away from the outside world, fantasising about killing and suicide and writing about his tormented double life with his alter ego, Wilson Jinks.

Stephen Wilkinson had a passion for violent comics, heavy metal music and computers and became an avid collector of books about serial killers, sex crimes, the occult and after-death experiences. After leaving school at 16 he developed a hatred of the world, which he believed was persecuting him.

Andrew Smelt, 30, Wilkinson's best friend at school, was one of the few people who had any insight into his life. Of their childhood years he said: "We spent quite a lot of social time together at each other's houses. We were just ordinary friends, he was just a normal mate."

But Wilkinson, a prolific reader with an IQ of 149 and a member of Mensa, began reading books about real-life crimes and murders. "He became the lonely misfit, the recluse who spent his time reading, writing, drawing and listening to heavy metal music," Mr Smelt said.

Wilkinson had an undistinguished career at school and few other friends. By the age of 14 he was developing a reputation as a loner. According to friends and psychiatrists, who interviewed him about the stabbings, this was a critical age for Wilkinson and it was then he began seriously to retreat into himself and reject the world.

After leaving school with no qualifications, Wilkinson went to a local college and passed a number of GCSEs. He tried working as a painter on a youth training programme but believed everyone wanted to get rid of him and no-one liked him.

Subsequently he never found a job, although he applied three times for the post of mortuary attendant. For a number of years he lived on state benefit in his own flat, but returned home in 1989 to Easterside, Middlesbrough, to live with his father, Jim, who was separated from his mother.

Elizabeth Marsh, Wilkinson's aunt, lived in the same street as her nephew and described him as a man with few interests in life: "Stephen has never worked a day in his life and is a real loner," she said. "He has never had a girlfriend that I know of, and hasn't gone one mate of his own."

In 1985 he tried to commit suicide but was rescued by a tenant in his house who found him trying to slash his wrists. Wilkinson saw a doctor and was referred for two sessions of counselling, one lasting ten minutes and another 15.

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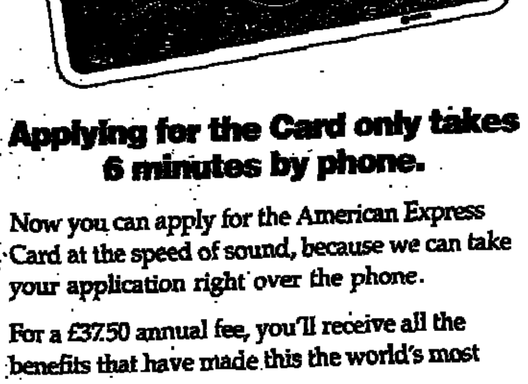

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Modern GPs lack drive of Dr Finlay

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE dedication of Dr Finlay, the fictitious GP who put his patients' needs above his own, has given way to the nine-to-five doctor who demands more from life than the next medical case, a survey has found.

Younger doctors are less likely than their elders to be immersed in the profession. Among doctors over 55, one in six viewed medicine as a vocation compared with one in 100 among those under 30, according to a survey by the British Medical Association of 800 of its members. More than one in two of those under 30 said medicine must be organised to balance the demands of career and family, compared with one in six of the over-55s.

Dr Mac Armstrong, secretary of the BMA, said: "We now realise doctors can only give their best to patients if they are whole people. Spending the whole of your life dealing with death and disease can be an extremely destructive process. To give your best to patients you need time."

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the association, said: "I reckon Dr Finlay was jolly good in his day but we need a different kind of doctor today. We don't want doctors who are obsessed by work to the exclusion of being full and rounded people. The survey shows that medicine is still seen as a commitment but this is balanced by the need for a full life."

A second survey of 600 new medical graduates found that a quarter planned to leave medicine or practise abroad, most commonly in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, under-secretary of the BMA, said: "It is extremely worrying. It costs from £250,000 to £500,000 to train a doctor and potentially a quarter are being lost to British practice. We need to find out if their absence is temporary or permanent, whether they return to full or part-time practice and whether there is a consistent reason for them going. If there is a consistent reason then we will have an opportunity to address it."

The Queen talking to Albert Fearn after he received his award for rescuing Mike Logan. George Fearn, top right, watched his father's medal sold to Mr Logan, above right, 55 years later

Air raid survivor buys rescuer's George Medal

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A SURVIVOR of a German air raid on Coventry during the last war has spent his life savings on the medal awarded to the man who saved his life. As a six-year-old boy Mike Logan was dragged from the wreckage of his home in Coventry by Albert Fearn, an Air Raid Protection warden. Mr Logan's father, mother and younger brother were all killed when their house was hit by a German bomb in October 1940.

Mr Fearn was awarded the George Medal, the highest honour for civilian bravery, for the heroism he displayed in rescuing Mike and his brother Patrick. He was presented with the medal by King George VI. Mr Fearn died six years ago, aged 79, and the medal passed to his son, George, who sold it this week to raise money to save his home.

George Fearn was at the sale at Warwick Auctions in Coventry and, after prolonged bidding, saw the medal sell for £2,850. The buyer introduced himself and disclosed that he was Mike Logan, now 61. Mr Fearn told him: "My father helped you, and now you have done the same for him." Mr Fearn said he had never wanted to part with the medal because it was such a potent symbol of his father's bravery. "I wanted to pass the medal on to my eldest son, Craig, but it was not to be. I had to sell it, or risk losing my house. I was just hoping it would not be sold abroad and lost forever," he said. "It is terrific that if the medal has to be sold, it should be to him. He has as close a bond to that medal as anyone and I am sure we will remain in touch."

Coventry in ruins after bombing raids in October and November 1940. The Logan house suffered a direct hit

A total of 449 German bombers took part in the bombing of Coventry and dropped 503 tons of high explosives and 881 incendiary bombs. The Germans even coined the verb *Coventrieren*, meaning to destroy utterly by bombing. The Logan family home in Henry Street suffered a direct hit and Mr Logan's father Michael, 42, his pregnant mother, Florence, and brother, Frankie, five, were killed. The only survivors were Mike and his older brother Patrick, now 62.

Mr Logan does not intend to keep the medal. He has promised it to Coventry's Herbert Art Gallery and Museum. He said yesterday: "That man saved my life and this medal should never leave Coventry. It was won here. Albert was very fond of the city and this is where it is going to stay. I heard that the medal was up for sale and I just had to try to buy it."

Mr Logan, a former Rolls-Royce fitter who is now unemployed, added: "Albert risked his life. He was told not to go into the house but he went in to get the survivors and the dead. I was very sad to have to buy it from the family, but I felt I had to buy the medal to keep it in Coventry. I will be giving it to the museum so everyone in Coventry can see it. This is a wonderful day. I am absolutely thrilled."

Author accepts damages

An author accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages yesterday over a review in the *Independent* newspaper that compared his views to those of the British National Party.

David Selbourne, 58, who published *The Principle of Duty* last year, claimed in the High Court that the comparison was offensive and damaging and lacked justification.

Just before the case, Newspaper Publishing plc paid a substantial sum into court which Mr Selbourne agreed to accept. The court was told he began proceedings after the newspaper refused apologise or publish a correction.

Boy not Ben

A boy found in a gypsy camp in northern Greece was not Ben Needham, 6, from Sheffield, who disappeared while on holiday in 1991. The child, who lacked Ben's blue eyes and red birthmark, had a Greek birth certificate.

Key prison issue

Hundreds of locks at Frankland prison, Co Durham, are being changed after the disappearance of a master key that can open every cell door. The relocking of 400 cells and other doors and entrances will cost at least £100,000.

Drugs expulsion

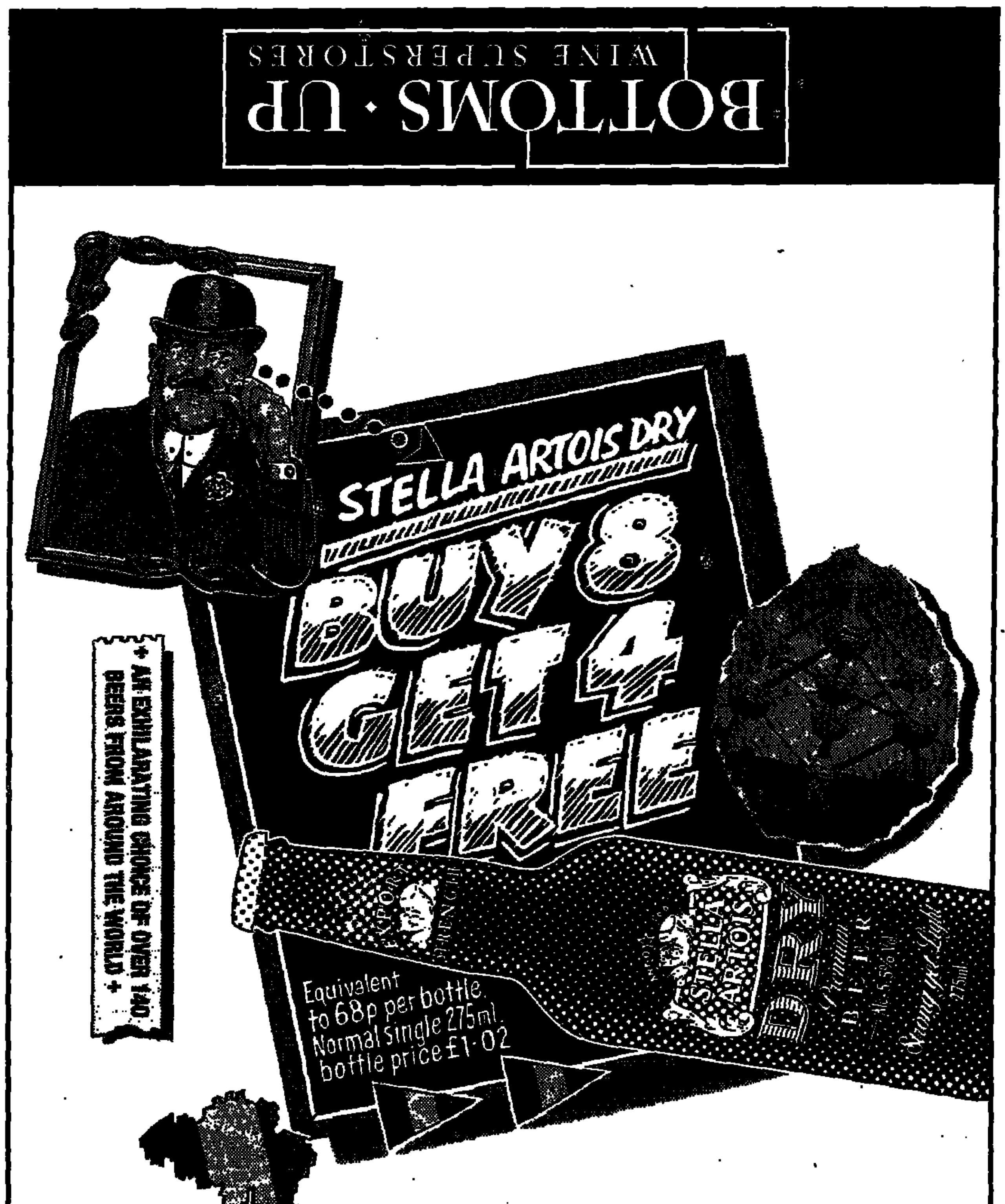
A boy aged 15 has been expelled from Hounsdown comprehensive at Totton, near Southampton, after he allegedly supplied Ecstasy tablets to other pupils. About 30 other pupils have been warned by police about possessing drugs.

Operations hit

Three bowel operations at a hospital in London were cancelled after thieves broke into a car at Bray, Berkshire, and stole two cameras used in keyhole surgery. The cameras, worth £32,000, are the only ones of their type in Britain.

Through the wall

Workmen carrying out cavity wall insulation at a pensioner's home on St Mary's on the Isles of Scilly drilled too deep — and pumped the built-in wardrobe in her bedroom full of foam. It took Liz Tyler, 66, three days to clean the clothes.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New chief's arrival completes revamp of Tory media team

Political editor hired to rival Labour spin doctor

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHARLES LEWINGTON, the political editor of the *Sunday Express*, was appointed to one of the hottest seats in national politics yesterday when he became director of communications for the Conservative Party.

After just five years on national newspapers, Mr Lewington, 36, is the Tories' chief spin doctor, charged with combating Labour's formidable media operation. He was at his new desk in Central Office immediately his appointment was announced. His salary has not been disclosed, but it is thought to be at least £70,000.

He replaces Hugh Colver, who walked out last month after only six months, complaining that he did not want to be a "political propagandist" and bemoaning the defeatism of many ministers.

The appointment completes the reorganisation of the Tories' media operation, carried out by Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, in which Sheila Gunn, from *The Times*, and Paul Hooper, from *The Sun*, have been drafted in to strengthen the team.

Mr Lewington will be pitted directly against Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, who with Peter Mandelson is widely credited with having reinforced his party's long-standing lead in the opinion polls. Mr Lewington and Mr Campbell have one thing in common: they are both former lobby correspondents with an instinctive feel for what makes a story and where best to place it. But while Mr Campbell can be an abrasive figure, not afraid to bully the broadcasters into giving his people airtime, Mr Lewington is likely to adopt a more subtle approach, preferring a quiet word in one of Westminster's many shadowy corners. He will be determined to avoid any repetition of the clangers that have disfigured the Tories' media efforts in recent weeks.

Nicknamed "Lord Charles" for his relaxed, unflappable manner and his taste for the good life, Mr Lewington has no shortage of media and political contacts. Nor does he lack courage. Few observers, including many ministers and Tory MPs, give much for the Government's chances at the next election and his friends say he recognises the risk in joining Central Office with such a mountain to climb. A bad defeat at the election would tarnish his reputation.

Unlike Mr Campbell, who is virtually unchallenged as Labour's main spokesman, Mr Lewington will also have to negotiate his way past the many rival power centres in Downing Street, Whitehall departments, the Whips' Office and the backbench 1922 Committee.

Labour's media machine went quickly into operation yesterday, likening his move from the ailing *Sunday Express* to Central Office as that of a man leaving one sinking ship to join another. One wag dubbed him "spin waiter" rather than spin doctor for his dark good looks and his eagerness to please.

Mr Lewington may be shrewd and streetwise, but some of his colleagues doubt that his commitment to the Tory cause can match the passion and flair that Mr Campbell brings to his job. Although he is said to be promising charm rather than aggression, he may have to revise his ideas as the fighting intensifies in the run-up to the election.

Mr Lewington was educated at Sherborne and Bath University, where he gained an economics degree. After a spell on regional newspapers, he joined the *Daily Express* in 1990 as a junior lobby correspondent and a year later became political editor of the *Sunday Express* after being head-hunted by Eve Pollard, then the Editor.

It is said that she routinely addressed him as "Darling Charles" and that he was adored by secretaries wherever he worked. One colleague said: "He only had to enter the room, and some of them came close to swooning."

He married Pippa Kelly, a *Hansard* reporter, a year ago.

SIMON WALKER

Charles Lewington, whose job will pit him against Labour's Alastair Campbell

Heseltine dismisses rail claim 'rubbish'

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL HESELTINE dismissed claims by Labour yesterday that rail privatisation would cost taxpayers an extra £850 million a year as "unadulterated rubbish".

Mr Heseltine, standing in for John Major at Prime Minister's Questions, was challenged by Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House, to confirm that the public subsidy would rise after privatisation. "Isn't the message clear that rail privatisation is a waste of taxpayers' money?" she said. But Mr Heseltine said they came from a Labour press release and "like most Labour press releases, they are unadulterated rubbish".

The clash came as the Government claimed that rail privatisation was "gaining irresistable momentum". In a written response to a critical Trade and Industry Committee report, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said the move would help taxpayers and improve services. He did not comment on the committee's claim that privatisation would cost the taxpayer an extra £700 million.

Law sought to restrain water companies

BY NICK NUTTALL

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are backing a proposed change in the law that will give rivers, meadows and fenlands greater protection from water companies and farmers.

Richard Burden, Labour MP for Birmingham Northfield, has agreed to sponsor a Private Member's Bill aimed at improving water conservation. The government is understood to be sympathetic and the National Rivers Authority has voiced its support.

The Bill will aim to limit abstractions from rivers and set mandatory targets for the prevention and repair of leaks by water companies. It will also promote the use of water-efficient devices such as low-flush toilets.

The move comes as Yorkshire Water announced plans to take more water from rivers to preserve supplies during the present dry spell and to avoid shortages next summer. The company's plan was condemned by English Nature, which fears damage to rare plants and animals in the lower Derwent valley national nature reserve.

Muslim demands Labour inquiry into selection vote

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MILLIONAIRE seeking to become Britain's first Muslim MP accused the Labour Party of running an unfair election yesterday after he lost a selection battle for Glasgow Govan.

Mohammed Sarwar, a Glasgow businessman, plans to appeal to Labour's national executive over the ballot, which he lost by one vote. He said that 52 votes were invalid and he believes some may have been unfairly ruled out.

The election campaign between Mr Sarwar and Mike Watson, the sitting Labour MP for Glasgow Central, which is to disappear under the boundary changes, was one of the most acrimonious in Scotland for many years. There have been allegations of vote-rigging, secret deals and financial irregularities from both sides. Mr Sarwar, 43, has been criticised for sending his children to private schools.

There have also been accusations of racism. Mohammed Shoaib, vice-chairman of the constituency party, said: "The message the Labour Party is giving out is if you have a Muslim or Pakistani background, you are not on."

Mr Watson was declared the winner by 237 to 236 votes. A third candidate, Margaret Curren, polled 18. Members of the constituency party were asked to list first and second choices and when Ms Curren's votes were redistributed among the other two candidates they each had 245. Mr Watson won because he had polled the highest number of first-choice votes.

Mr Sarwar said: "The votes were ruled out on the basis that the signatures did not match up. For many in the Asian community English is a second language. I want the National Executive Committee to look at all the votes."

He said that he was not alleging racism and did not want a new election. Instead he wanted the 52 invalid votes to be included and the count to be done again. Mr Watson, however, said he believed that the election had been fair.

Mr Sarwar, who came to Scotland from his native Pakistan at the age of 26, said that he did not know whether he would seek another seat.

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Tory MP becomes 50th to pull out

BY JAMES LANDALE

ROBERT HICKS yesterday became the 50th Tory MP to announce that he will retire at the general election.

Mr Hicks, 57, said that he was standing down from his Cornwall South-East seat because MPs had become more arrogant since he entered Parliament in 1970. He has a majority of 7,704.

"Both Parliament and the Conservative Party have altered as you would expect over my time at Westminster," he said. "Unfortunately, in my judgment neither has necessarily changed for the better.

"There is a new type of Member of Parliament on the Conservative side. They are products of Thatcherism — more aggressive — and there is also an arrogance which does not appeal to me. On the Labour side they have got increasingly frustrated and irritable. The atmosphere is not quite as relaxed or as constructive as it used to be."

Mr Hicks was an assistant whip in the Heath government between 1973 and 1974 but has spent most of his career on the back benches.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, standing in for John Major. Estimates debates on the provision of health services for women with breast cancer, research and the screening programme, and on financial services regulation. In the Lords: debates on Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations; Child Support (Compensation for Recipients of Family Credit and Disability Working Allowance) Regulations; Bristol Development Corporation (Area and Constitution) Order and Non-Domestic Rating (Chargeable Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations.

TODAY: neither House is sitting.

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Major's appeals for delaying launch of single currency will fall on stony ground

EU to start countdown for monetary union

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MADRID

EUROPEAN leaders will give short shrift to John Major's pleas for a delay in monetary union when they meet in Madrid today to start the countdown to its launch and combat the doubts which have descended on the project in recent weeks.

The Prime Minister can count on little more than a polite hearing when he makes his case for studying the likely economic disruption if monetary union is launched among a small group of countries on schedule on January 1, 1999. Despite British claims to have Rome's support, Mr Major will receive no overt backing from Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, for his argument that delay would be prudent.

"We agree with Major's idea for a study on the impact," a senior Italian official said. "But we don't want to touch the subject of delay."

While much of Europe has shifted recently towards the British Government's jaundiced view of the EU's performance, Britain's isolation over economic and monetary union (EMU) reflects its continuing position as the most reluctant of member states. However, while irritation is running high over Britain's resistance to almost all substantial reform at next year's Maastricht revamp and its obstruction of an anti-racist package, some leaders are concerned about the dangers of freezing out London.

Erik Derycke, the Foreign Minister of ultra-federalist Belgium, yesterday deplored the call by President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for a two-speed Europe which would leave Britain behind. "We must keep talking to the British when we talk about monetary union, even at Madrid," he said.

MADRID SUMMIT

Mr Major's desire to force debate on EMU is just one element making for a sour session at the exhibition site near Madrid airport where the leaders are meeting amid some of the strictest security measures seen in Europe. Vigilance has been heightened after the death of six people in a car bomb, attributed to Basque separatists, in the Madrid outskirts this week.

As well as gloom over monetary union, the Madrid mood has been soured by M Chirac's troubles at home, the bad blood over his nuclear testing and differences among the 15 over next year's planned revamp of the EU and the future membership of the former East bloc states.

The refusal to tamper with EMU timing, widespread even among countries with only the remotest chance of qualifying for the single currency, reflects the consensus among European leaders that any hint of missing the rendezvous decreed at Maastricht would shake the very pillars of European "construction".

German anxiety, the French strikes, and the weak economic performance of a majority of member states have shaken all but the most ardent federalists. However, the consensus among the Euro-elite holds that the show must go on. Failure would bring "an enormous loss of credibility and a formidable retreat from the European idea", Jacques Santer, the Commission President, said. The markets would punish Europe, robbing the poorer economies and leaving the rich ones "like King Midas with their hands full of gold and their industry moved to their neighbours' land".

Privately, European politicians say they are not naive about the possibility of missing the deadline, but in the words of a senior German official in Brussels: "It is far too early to talk about delay. If we have to do it, we can wait until 1998."

The EU leaders will agree tomorrow to set a date in April 1998 for choosing the founder EMU members made up of states which meet the "convergence" criteria on economic performance. The leaders are also due to agree to call the currency the Euro, a German choice which has attracted no enthusiasm.

While no formal decision is expected, the question of enlargement will further dampen the proceedings. A handful of countries, including Britain, want to encourage the EU to contemplate the disruptive and costly business of adapting to the entry of the poorer Eastern states and Cyprus and Malta.

Letters, page 17

A logo proclaiming the Spanish presidency of the European Union is set up in Madrid yesterday

Rifkind adopts hard line over single currency

BY GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

A STRONG warning that Britain is not likely to accept the "sacrifice" of control over the British economy involved in joining a single currency was issued by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, on the eve of the European Union summit in Madrid.

Explaining the Government's stance in the most sceptical tone he has yet used about the single currency, Mr Rifkind hardened his tone in an attempt to put what Conservatives call "clear blue water" between the Government and Labour. He contradicted Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, over the political consequences of a single currency and hinted that, although the Goverment will not decide yet, the odds are stacked against Britain joining a monetary union. In a speech earlier this year, Mr Clarke argued that membership of a monetary union did not threaten the nation state.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Rifkind insisted that the Government's mind was not made up on a single currency, but the criteria he outlined for settling the issue suggest he would not recommend British membership if a referendum on monetary union were held under a Conservative government. The Cabinet recently discussed a referendum and only Mr Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Michael Portillo opposed such a commitment in the party's manifesto.

Mr Rifkind defended a speech he made in London this autumn which angered some Tory Europhiles and Foreign Office diplomats by insisting that Britain should not surrender its national interests in pursuit of influence in Europe. Asked whether this applied to the dominant European issue of the single currency, Mr Rifkind said: "Everyone accepts that monetary union means that national parliaments and national governments would no longer be able to have control over, or even have a dominant influence on, a whole range of monetary decisions and economic decisions as a consequence. Well, that's a sacrifice of national control.

"It's then common sense to say that you should only do that if you are satisfied that that there are benefits to your country of a kind and of a degree which make that sacrifice justified.

"How do you measure influence? You measure it by whether it adds to or detracts [from] our national security, whether it adds to or detracts [from] our national prosperity, whether it adds to or detracts [from] our national quality of life."

The Foreign Secretary arrived in Madrid last night. His remarks are bound to annoy Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France, who are keen to use today's meeting to show that plans for a single currency are not in doubt.

France and Germany may struggle to put a united EU on display. John Major plans to warn his partners that they are "sleepwalking" towards a single currency without having considered the implications. Mr Rifkind said he expected Britain's partners to agree to a suggestion from Britain and Italy that EU leaders should commission a deeper study into the consequences of a single currency.

Strikers hint at peace as Metro opens briefly

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HOPES that the French transport strike may be coming to an end rose yesterday when parts of the Paris Metro system briefly reopened and a key union leader called for negotiations including a possible return to work.

French stocks climbed dramatically and the franc gained more than two centimes against the German mark, as markets reacted to indications that after three gruelling weeks, a halt to the strike may be in sight.

The reopening of the Metro was shortlived and largely symbolic. A single line ran for less than two hours, with eight trains instead of the usual 63, before the network once more halted.

Union leaders repeated calls for further demonstrations tomorrow, but one strike leader raised for the first time the possibility of discussing a return to work with Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister.

Marc Blondel, head of the Force Ouvrière union, called for a "social summit" set for December 21 to be brought forward and its scope expanded to include negotiations over disputed welfare reforms and a cut in working hours as well as terms for returning to work.

Train drivers in six French towns and cities, including Strasbourg, voted to return to work yesterday, although the majority of union branches vowed to continue the strike. Many postal employees, civil service workers and teachers are also trickling back.

During the week, M Juppé backed down over a plan to restructure the state-owned rail network and reform civil service pension benefits, the two grievances that triggered the strike on November 24. However, M Juppé's radical overhaul of the welfare system, designed to cut France's deficit in time for European monetary union, remains a crucial sticking point.

Force Ouvrière said tomorrow's demonstrations were designed to "push the Government to suspend its plan" for social security reform. "The Government and Prime Minister have another card to play: by accepting negotiations at once, all night if necessary," M Blondel said, after sending a letter to M Juppé laying out a broad agenda for talks. In it, he noted: "We feel it is necessary, if we want to show a desire for conciliation at this meeting, to set the traditional conditions for a return to work after a long conflict." That has been interpreted as a demand for striking workers to be compensated for lost pay.

Viannet: backed call for earlier summit

The communist-led CGT union also demanded that M Juppé bring the meeting forward and discuss a wider range of issues. "In order to be effective, talks must focus on subjects at the heart of the conflict," Louis Viannet, the head of the union, said.

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Clinton says US will not cut and run as long as Nato mission has a purpose

Bosnia war comes to formal end in Elysée splendour

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia signed the Bosnian peace treaty in Paris yesterday, formally bringing Europe's bloodiest conflict since the Second World War to an end.

John Major, President Chirac of France, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, added their names to the document, officially to be known as the Bosnia-Herzegovina Peace Accord, as co-sponsors of a Nato-led peace force of about 60,000 soldiers prepared to deploy in Bosnia next week.

M Chirac, the host for the ceremony at the Elysée Palace, said that the memory of 200,000 people killed in 43 months of fighting could not be erased, but added: "We must make ourselves worthy of their memory, worthy of their suffering."

The agreement brokered in Dayton, Ohio, preserves a united Bosnia in name while dividing the region almost equally between the Serbs and a Croat-Muslim alliance and granting recognition to the "ethnically pure" mini-state of the Bosnian Serbs.

The signing took place before mutual recognition pacts between the three leaders of the former Yuguslav republics could be arranged. The three principal signatories, President Milosevic of Serbia, President Tudjman of Croatia and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia shook hands after the ceremony. "I feel like a man swallowing a bitter but useful medicine, but I can assure you we are signing this peace treaty with sincerity," President Izetbegovic said.

President Milosevic said that the treaty "does not solve all the problems between people who have been-at-war for years, but I am convinced a common language can be found".

President Clinton, who met the three leaders of former Yugoslavia before the signing, said yesterday that, although American casualties were inevitable in Bosnia, the United States would not "cut and run" as long as the Nato mission had a purpose.

However, the most grudging congressional approval of US deployment in Bosnia yesterday gave the President the flimsiest political support for his Balkan peace mission and left him deeply exposed during an election year.

The war *formally* came to an end amid all the pomp and solemnity France could muster. Paris is 800 miles from Sarajevo and the ornate marbled halls of the Elysée could hardly be further removed from the wreckage of Bosnia, a magnificent setting in which to declare, with cautious optimism, an end to one of the ugliest chapters in modern history.

The Republican Guard, in their red, white and blue uniforms, shivered beneath their epaulettes and then snapped sharply to attention as each political leader rolled through the Elysée's vast gates yesterday morning.

Dwarfed by some of the most magnificent chandeliers in the world and surrounded by gilt, brocade and the leaders of 50 states, just before midday the leaders of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia signed the peace agreement. The peace is a new and fragile thing; the Elysée, built by Armand-Claude Mollet between 1718 and 1720, is old and solid but, as President Tudjman said yesterday, the emnities that have convulsed Bosnia are older still.

The leaders of the former Yugoslav republics appeared momentarily awed by the solemn weight of protocol and international power arrayed at the Elysée. Presented with the accord documents, President Milosevic seemed uncertain where to sign and began flicking through the agreement, as if he might have to read it all again to make quite sure that nobody was hoodwinking him.

President Tudjman peeked sideways to see if he could get a clue from his Serbian counterpart on where to find the dotted line. French officials rushed forward to find the right page and President Izetbegovic sat back, pleased with himself: he might, as he would later put it, be signing "without any enthusiasm", but at least he had found the right page before the others.

Parisians were less satisfied. They found fresh cause to grumble when the Esplanade des Invalides was turned into a helicopter pad for the visiting dignitaries, shutting surrounding streets and compounding the horrendous traffic jams caused by the public transport strike.

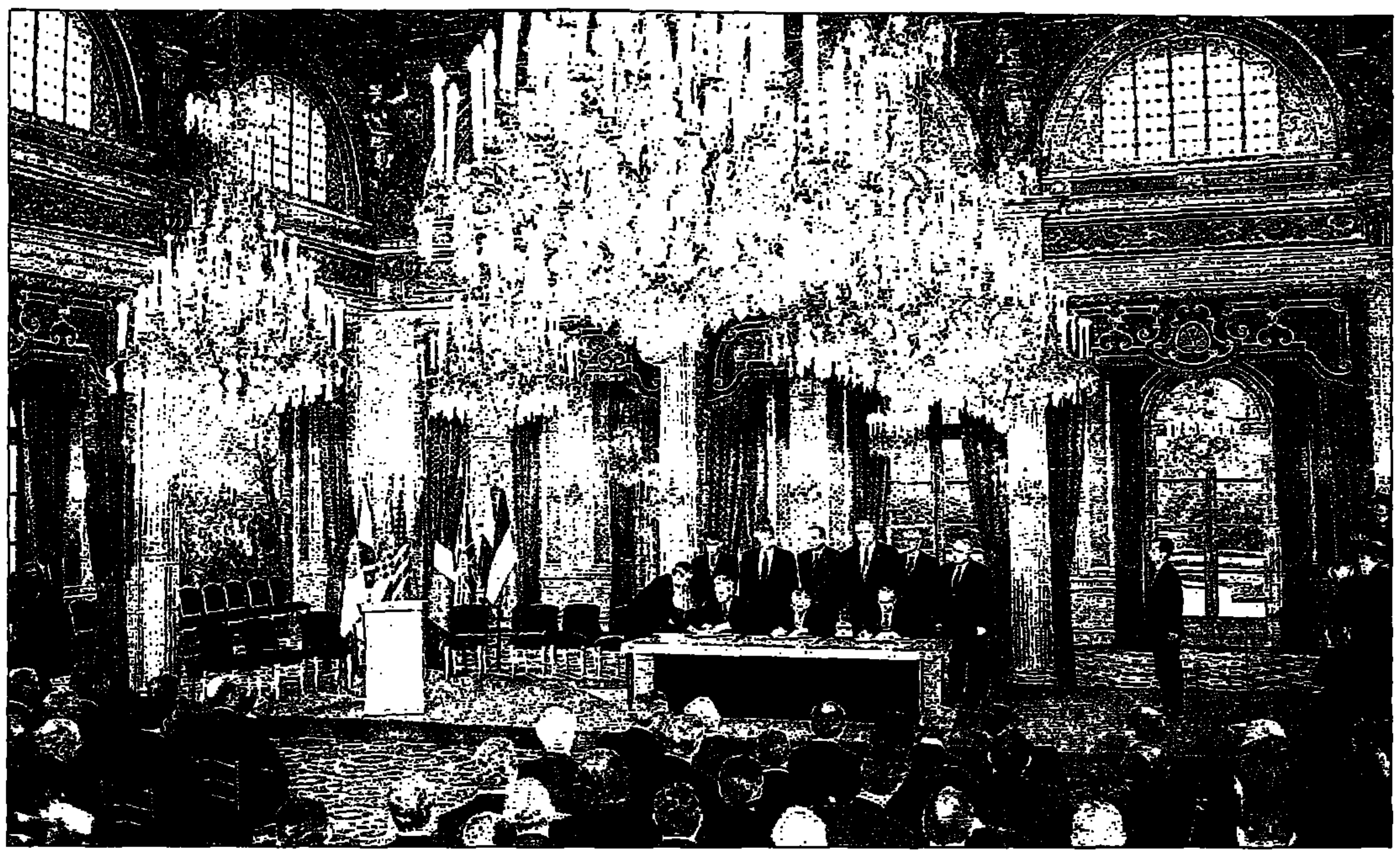
Cynicism and dread greet Paris signing

THE news from Paris produced no sign of jubilation in the snow-blanketed wilds of central Bosnia, where the graveyards seem fuller than the village streets and the only metropolis is of gutted houses (Anthony Loyd and Stacy Sullivan write).

"So they say its finished do they?" said Asim, a Bosnian soldier. "I cannot believe such naivety. This is nothing more than a respite."

After three and half years of war in which one in twenty Bosnians died, it is perhaps not surprising that there were no street parties, but even so the level of cynicism over the accord bodes ill for peace.

In Sarajevo, machinegun fire rang out in celebration. Only a few hundred feet away, in Serb-held Grbavica, the shots were heard with dread. Ljiljana Majdov, 19, said: "Our nightmare is just beginning."



World leaders meet yesterday in the chandeliered glory of the Salle des Fêtes in the Elysée Palace to witness the signing of the Bosnian peace accord. President Chirac reminded those present that the memory of 200,000 people killed in 43 months of fighting could not be erased

Nato firepower 'will ensure peace'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Jackson: peace must prevail at local level

BRITAIN'S toughest-looking general had a word of warning yesterday for the "former" warring factions in the Balkans, as he prepared for his new job as commander of the British troops assigned to the 12-month Nato-led peace implementation operation.

Major-General Mike Jackson, the Russian-speaking commander of 3rd UK Division, said he would not shrink from using the formidable firepower he is taking to Bosnia-Herzegovina to enforce the peace agreement signed in Paris. The weapons at his disposal include the British Army's new 155mm AS90 artillery piece, Challenger tanks and anti-tank attack helicopters.

However, General Jackson said: "I am not looking to fight a pitched battle with anybody and I hope it will not become necessary." The Nato-led implementation force of 60,000 troops from 32 countries will have little in common with the United Nations force it is replacing, except that both are expected to operate with the consent of the three factions.

Speaking at the headquarters of 3rd Division at Bulford camp in Wiltshire, General Jackson, 51, said he hoped that the desire for peace shown by the three leaders from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia would be evident all the way down to the local level. He made it uncompromisingly clear that the rules of engagement he had been given would empower him to enforce any part of the treaty that local militia refused to implement voluntarily. General Jackson, who commanded the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment from 1984 to 1986, said: "We are there to implement the peace agreement which has been entered into voluntarily. I very much hope that consensus gets right down to the local level. If on an occasion a group at the local level do not wish to abide by the agreements, then the implementation force will enforce the provisions. I hope it will never come to that, but if it does there will be no shrinking from it."

> ‘I am not looking to fight a pitched battle with anybody and I hope that it will not become necessary’

Britain is supplying 13,000 troops for the Nato-led peace mission, most of whom will come under General Jackson's direct command. He will lead a multinational division that could eventually consist of three armoured brigades: one British with a Dutch battle group attached, one Canadian with Czech, Polish and Pakistani battalions, and possibly a Pakistani brigade.

General Jackson hoped to have the tanks and artillery "in theatre" by Christmas and emphasised that he would expect to have total freedom of movement in every part of his area of responsibility.

The only limitation imposed on General Jackson is that during the first 30 days his force will be unable to intervene if any of the factions "torch" and loot houses in towns and villages that they are obliged to hand over under the Dayton accord.

The main body of General Jackson's divisional headquarters, which will be based at Gornji Vakuf, flew out from Stansted airport yesterday on a fleet of Ukrainian Ilyushin aircraft.

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Communists on course to emerge as biggest parliamentary bloc with 100 seats

Late deciders hold key as 43 parties wage Duma battle

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

UP TO a third of Russian voters have still not decided how or if they will vote on Sunday, as the parliamentary election campaign is being fought hard right up until the finishing line.

"Half of those who have not decided are putting off their decision till the last moment," Aleksandr Oslon, head of the Public Opinion polling agency, said yesterday.

With a huge spectrum of parties on offer — 43 national parties and an average of a dozen local candidates standing for every constituency — the choice of the late voters could be crucial. Turnout is expected to be 70 per cent, significantly up from the last elections in 1993.

In theory, falling living standards and disillusionment with the Government should deliver the new parliament into the arms of the Communist-nationalist opposition. The Communists are virtually certain of being the largest party in the Duma with more than 100 seats. But the extra turnout and the treacherous arithmetic of the voting law could work against them. Pollsters say a late voter is typically female and not highly interested in politics and likely to cast a safe, centrist vote for a party like the Women of Russia.

Two hundred and twenty-five of the 450 seats in the Duma are allocated by proportional representation to the electoral blocs that can gather at least 5 per cent of the national vote. The other 225 seats are being elected locally in first-past-the-post contests.

A clutch of parties, such as Yegor Gaidar's Russia's Democratic Choice and the Agrarian Party, the collective farm workers' lobby group, are hovering around the 5 per cent mark. A small swing could decide whether they make it into parliament or not.

In the regional constituencies, candidates who have the support of the local administration and local media will do well. That is good news for the pro-government party, Our Home Is Russia. The Government could also benefit from some local officials trying to rig the constituency ballots. "With such a lot of candidates, it will be much easier to falsify the results," Nikolai Petrov, a political analyst, said. In the past week the two wealthiest parties — Our Home Is Russia and Vladimir Zhirinovsky's extreme nationalist Liberal Democratic Party — have launched a television advertising campaign to steal votes from the Communist Party. Some other parties have reportedly complained that all the advertising space on national television, at up to £15,000 a minute, has been bought up.

RUSSIAN ELECTION

On a live television debate on Wednesday night, Nikita Mikhalkov, the Oscar-winning film director who is standing as a candidate for Our Home Is Russia, had a duel with Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. Mr Mikhalkov was the more eloquent and scored points off Mr Zyuganov by telling him he was the "victim of the greatest deception" — Soviet communism.

Last night it was announced that President Yeltsin, recovering from a mild heart attack, will cast his ballot at a sanatorium near Moscow. "The President feels all right, he has a regular working schedule and the epidemic of influenza has not reached him," a Kremlin spokesman said. Mr Yeltsin is scheduled to make a televised appeal to the nation today. His last television broadcast was on November 30.

☐ **Riga:** President Ulmanis of Latvia has asked Andris Shkele, a businessman, to form a new government and break the political deadlock that has existed in the Baltic State since elections two months ago. "The President in Frankfurt told journalists that he will entrust the formation of the government to Shkele," a spokesman said. Mr Ulmanis is on a state visit to Germany.

Mr Shkele is a successful entrepreneur but politically unknown. He was Deputy Agriculture Minister when Latvia regained its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991 and is now chairman of the state-owned Latvian Shipping Company. In a recent newspaper interview he backed more favourable conditions for investors, entry into the European Union and a stable currency. *(Reuter)*

Candidates struck off

Bishkek: Kirghizia's Supreme Court has struck the names of half the candidates in this month's presidential elections from the ballot for not registering properly, election officials said yesterday. The court ruled that three of the six candidates cannot run in the December 24 polls — Kirghizia's first post-Soviet presidential election — because local election authorities failed to sign the candidates' lists of signatures.

President Akayev remains on the ballot, but the decision prevented one of his most serious opponents, Jumgalbek Amanbayev, the deputy Prime Minister, from taking part. ***(AP)***

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AGRARIAN PARTY
Leader: Mikhail Lapshin
Programme: more subsidies for state farms, a halt to land privatisation

POWER TO THE PEOPLE
Leader: Nikolai Ryzhkov
Programme: strong state economy, re-creation of the Soviet Union

CENTRE

OUR HOME IS RUSSIA
Leaders: Viktor Chernomyrdin, Nikita Mikhalkov
Programme: more of the same, support for government policies

THE WOMEN OF RUSSIA
Leaders: Alevtina Fedulova, Yekaterina Lakhova
Programme: more representation for women, increased social benefits

IVAN RYBKIN'S BLOC
Leader: Ivan Rybkin
Programme: support for the existing government, but more emphasis on social policy

PARTY OF WORKERS' SELF-GOVERNMENT
Leader: Svyatoslav Fyodorov
Programme: employees to be given the right to manage their own enterprises

REFORMERS

FORWARD, RUSSIA!
Leader: Boris Fyodorov
Programme: radical economic reform with assertive nationalist foreign policy

RUSSIA'S DEMOCRATIC CHOICE
Leaders: Yegor Gaidar, Sergei Kovalyov
Programme: radical economic reform, demilitarization of Russia

YABLOKO
Leader: Grigori Yavlinsky
Programme: more economic reform, liberal social polices, economic integration of the former Soviet Union

FRINGE

BEER LOVERS' PARTY
Leader: Konstantin Kalachyov
Programme: beer for all

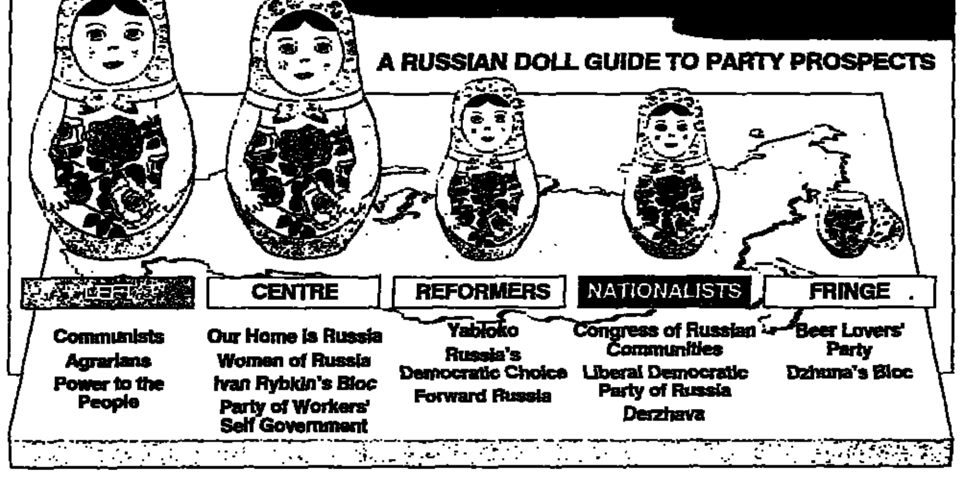
DZHUNA'S BLOC
Leader: Dzhuna Davitashvili
Programme: health for all through faith healing

NATIONALISTS

LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF RUSSIA
Leader: Vladimir Zhirinovsky
Programme: unlimited power for Zhirinovsky, conquest of Alaska, free vodka

CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN COMMUNITIES
Leaders: Yuri Skokov, Aleksandr Lebed
Programme: defence of Russians in the former Soviet republics, protectionism for Russian industries

DERZHAVA
Leader: Aleksandr Rutskoi
Programme: re-creation of the Russian Empire within the borders of the former Soviet Union



Russians fire on Chechen city

FROM REUTER
IN GUDERMES

RUSSIAN helicopter gunships fired rockets into the centre of Gudermes, Chechenia's second largest city yesterday, the first day of voting in national and local elections in the region.

A statement by the Russian military command, published by the Interfax news agency, said up to 600 separatist rebels had earlier entered the city, 20 miles east of Grozny, the Chechen capital, seized several buildings and opened fire on Moscow troops. Tass said that 12 Russian soldiers had been killed in Gudermes and another 30 were missing. The news agency reported that there were about 80 rebel fighters in the city.

Thousands of people have been killed in Chechenia since last December when Moscow sent troops there to quell a struggle for independence. Widespread fighting ended with a shaky ceasefire in June but peace talks have stalled and sporadic clashes continue.

Moscow has said the polls are the only alternative to renewed bloodshed, while some rebels have vowed to disrupt the poll, which they say is illegal. In Grozny, heavy exchanges of shooting were heard on Wednesday night and yesterday morning, with few voters appearing despite tough security measures by the Russians.

Down-to-earth town's space hero is eclipsed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN KOLOMNA

MORE than 30 years after Herman Titov made history by becoming the second cosmonaut to travel in space, the former air force pilot is discovering that challenges can be just as taxing on Earth.

With two days of campaigning left before the polls open in Russia's parliamentary elections, Mr Titov, 60, is fighting a rearguard action to hold on to his seat in this hotly contested town 65 miles south of Moscow. Under Russia's electoral system, half the seats for the Duma, the lower house of parliament, are contested by parties in the national ballot, but the other half are decided in constituency elections.

The Kolomna constituency has a particularly chequered past. The first elected deputy was a local businessman attached to the far Right who was murdered earlier this year when his links with organised crime turned sour.

Mr Titov won the subsequent by-election for the Communists, but is struggling to hold on to his majority in the face of competition from 16 other candidates, all with solid local affiliations.

"After an uneasy start with democracy, the electorate is becoming more mature," a local electoral official said. "You cannot just show up here and hope to win by playing on your name or making half-hearted promises. You need to convince people that you will do something for them in return for their vote."

Mr Titov certainly did not benefit from the recent publication of a diary by Nikolai Kamanin, a fellow space veteran, which chipped away at the hero status of the Soviet Union's pioneering cosmonauts. While Yuri Gagarin, the first space traveller, comes out as a drunken womaniser, Mr Titov was described as so unstable that he had three car crashes in six months. "Titov gives many promises, but often does not carry them out," Mr Kamanin wrote.

Although Mr Titov's campaign team insist that he has displayed "the right stuff" as a deputy since his election in May, his short term in office has been largely unremarkable apart from two new trams and the payment of some government debts to local enterprises.

"Two months ago I would have said the Communists had the election sewn up in Kolomna," said Galina Stepanian, the deputy editor of the local evening paper. "Titov in particular is the embodiment of what people miss about the Soviet Union in its heyday, when it led America in the superpower space race. But in the past few weeks there has been growing opposition to their return," she said.

On the street, impoverished pensioners and disgruntled workers said they would back the Communists on Sunday. Others, however, were adamant that they would be supporting rival centrist, reformist and nationalist candidates in an effort to prevent the Communists from returning to power.

One unemployed man said that he would be voting for a local independent candidate who he claimed was buying votes. One teenage voter admitted that she had never heard of Mr Titov, either as her deputy or as a former cosmonaut, and that she planned to vote for a rival candidate.

Gagarin: described as drunken womaniser

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Sacked car executive kills himself

FROM AFP
IN ROTTACH-EGERN

THE former finance director of Daimler-Benz, Gerhard Liener, was found dead at his home in Bad Wiessee, on the Tegernsee lake in Bavaria, after apparently committing suicide, police said.

Herr Liener, 63, who was found by his wife early yesterday, left a hand-written letter. Former colleagues said that he had been suffering from depression.

He had worked for the company for 28 years and was chief finance director under the chairmanship of Edzard Reuter, who retired in May.

Jürgen Schrempp took over as chairman and Herr Liener was forced to resign the same month, reportedly for criticising Herr Reuter's decision to take the company into the aeronautical and electronics industries.

Herr Schrempp paid tribute to his former colleague yesterday. "In Gerhard Liener I lose a good friend, who decisively marked my professional career with Daimler-Benz. My family and I are in deep mourning," he said.

In August, *Manager* magazine reported that Herr Liener had been paid £1.8 million for the termination of his contract, which was supposed to run until 1997.

Onassis string of pearls for sale in 'Camelot' auction

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JEWELLERY, furniture and other effects owned by the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis will be auctioned in April by Sotheby's in New York. The lots include the former First Lady's "signature" string of pearls and the mahogany desk at which President Kennedy signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963.

The auction includes most of the contents of the Manhattan apartment in which Mrs Onassis lived from 1964 until her death last year. Her children, John and Caroline, have donated certain items to the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, but the former First Lady provided that the parts of her estate not wanted by her children should be sold at auction.

Possessions from the Kennedys' "Camelot" years at the White House include presidential golf clubs, a child's writing armchair and two rocking chairs. Kennedy found that rocking chairs suited his bad back. A Rauschenberg portrait of the couple during the 1960 presidential campaign and a pair of obelisks that sat in the Red Room of the Kennedy White House will also be auctioned. Estimates for individual items were not available.

The sale will also include about 3,000 books, which will be sold in lots of 300, including works inscribed by the poet Robert Lowell, some books with the President's seal or notes, and a school textbook, *A Complete Treatise on the Conjugation of French Verbs*, which dates back to Mrs Onassis's childhood. Inside the front cover is the youthful scrawl "Jacqueline Bouvier".

The desk on which the President signed the treaty is a Louis XVI ormolu-mounted mahogany plat and cartonnier, signed by Levasseur. It was not intended to be used for the historic occasion, Sotheby's said, but was needed because a small desk was required to accommodate the crowd for the signing.

From her Onassis years there will be the 40.42 carat diamond ring she was given by her second husband, Aristotle Onassis. A ruby and diamond necklace by Van Cleef & Arpels will also be auctioned.

Diana Brooke, chief executive of Sotheby's, said: "The objects we are selling reveal a portrait of one of the most extraordinary women of the twentieth century. They reflect her personal and private choices, conveying the elegance, taste and restraint for which she was renowned."

Jackie O, as she became known, retains a powerful hold over the American imagination and the auction is sure to attract good crowds. Tickets to a public exhibition of the lots will be distributed after a random computer draw of people who have bought the auction catalogue. Given the price of the catalogue (softback $45 or £29, hardback $90), Sotheby's should make money even before the auctioneer's hammer drops on the first successful bid. The four-day sale is expected to bring about $5 million.

Jacqueline Onassis: effects likely to fetch $5 million

Snow traps drivers on Italian motorway

FROM REUTER IN ROME

ABOUT 1,000 motorists were stranded on a snowbound highway in central Italy yesterday after spending the night in their cars, police said.

Tailbacks stretched up to 12 miles on the main Bologna to Florence motorway and drivers who were heading southwards were stuck for up to 20 hours.

One motorist, Pasquale Fontana, was stranded in a tunnel for nearly 14 hours. He called for help on his mobile telephone and firemen laboured for hours to dig through the fresh snow. A driver, who had been on the road for 12 hours, told state television: "We are keeping ourselves warm by keeping the car motor on."

Rescuers moved some of the lorries clogging the route, allowing officials and volunteers to get through 15in of snow in some places with hot food, blankets and drinks. Some drivers were taken to safety while others preferred to remain in their cars.

Snow continued to fall in central Italy, cutting off small villages and blocking many roads and causing power cuts.

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Guards at Peking court believed Wei to be innocent

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

WEI JINGSHENG, the leading Chinese dissident sentenced this week to 14 years in jail, is regarded as innocent by some of the guards and court officials at his trial.

This was disclosed yesterday by court staff outraged at Wei's conviction for subversion. They noted that his sentence was longer than any given to the leaders of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, they described the trial in a small courtroom before three judges, bailiffs and court staff, Wei's brother and one of his sisters, together with selected spectators.

The sources said that Wei, who is suffering from hypertension, remained seated throughout the five-hour trial but appeared calm and relaxed. The sources said the three main charges against him were: raising money in Hong Kong and China through investing in a savings co-operative and art exhibitions; divulging state secrets to John Shattuck, the US Assistant Secretary of State, when they met in 1993 (Mr Shattuck was in Peking and Wei was briefly at liberty after almost 15 years in prison); and writing articles and letters, particularly for foreign readers.

Wei denied the charges with little emotion, the sources said. He testified that he had raised money for the families of victims of the Tiananmen crackdown, and political prisoners, and to support himself. He said his conversation with Mr Shattuck had ranged over questions of human rights and democracy.

Wei: staff outraged by his conviction

He admitted publishing his views abroad, but said he had also made them clear in letters to Deng Xiaoping and President Jiang Zemin from his prison cell.

The sources say that many court workers and some of Wei's guards regard him as guilty of nothing and admire him. They see the trial as an indication that China's legal system is flawed. The sources add that foreign pressure over the case has alarmed Peking, which knows it cannot allow Wei to die in jail.

The trial — while it was held in secret — was "open" because the date and place were announced in advance, Wei's family was notified, and the result was immediately announced on the state radio. A Peking spokesman yesterday rejected "in the strongest terms" the American condemnation of the trial.

Peking's English-language *China Daily*, which reported Wei's conviction on an inside page, said he had attempted to "raise a storm powerful enough to shake up the present Government". The article said Wei "was arrested on November 21 of this year". This is misleading: Wei had been in police custody since April 1, 1994, although not under formal charge.

In Hong Kong every Chinese-language newspaper, except the two funded by Peking, deplored the sentence.

One of Wei's sisters, who had visited Anthony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, described China's leaders as "an organised crime gang".

Chinese exiles in the US blamed President Clinton for divorcing human rights from trade, encouraging Peking to crack down on dissidents.

Two Hong Kong residents protest against the Wei trial's verdict in a metal cage padlocked to railings at the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto embassy in the colony. Six people took part in the demonstration

Japanese disband Aum cult

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

THE Japanese Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, has decided to apply an anti-subversion law to disband the Aum Shinrikyo cult.

The 1952 Subversive Activities Law was introduced at the height of the Cold War and aimed at surppressing extreme left-wing unrest, but until now it has never been applied. The decision is, in effect, a death sentence for the cult, which has been linked to the fatal sarin gas attacks on Japanese subways. On Wednesday a Tokyo court froze all the cult's assets and the group will be dissolved and prohibited from any activities or recruitment.

Mr Muruyama has been slow to approve the use of the law because brutal police repression before and during the Second World War has left a legacy of popular mistrust about anti-subversion legislation.

At a meeting yesterday, however, Hiroshi Miyazawa, the Justice Minister, advised the Prime Minister that the conditions for invoking the law had been met.

Baboon cells for Aids man

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

IN AN attempt to save his life, an Aids activist was due to be given a transplant of baboon bone marrow in a San Francisco hospital last night.

Jeff Getty, 38, has tried virtually every experimental therapy on offer and has campaigned to be allowed to have the baboon transplant, even though some doctors believe it will shorten his life rather than extend it.

There is also a risk that he will catch other diseases from the baboon, which he could then pass on to nurses and doctors. Despite these risks, the therapy has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, an index of the desperation felt in America about the lack of progress in treating Aids.

"We cannot let fears of theoretical risks stop research," Mr Getty said in a statement.

The rationale for the treatment is that baboons are resistant to HIVl, the virus responsible for Aids. By replacing some of Mr Getty's stem cells — the bone marrow cells that manufacture the blood and immune system cells — with baboon stem cells, doctors hope to transplant the ability to fight the disease.

Arafat sets date for election

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

NOMINATIONS for the first Palestinian elections opened yesterday after the issuing of a decree by Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that polling take place on January 20 for more than one million voters in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and annexed east Jerusalem.

Ian Blackley, spokesman for the 300 European Union observers, said that because of the "political sensitivities" surrounding Jerusalem, Arabs living there will vote in post offices and have their papers counted outside the city.

The voters will be asked to select 83 members of a legislative council and the new President of the Palestinian national authority, widely expected to be Mr Arafat. Israeli opponents of the peace process are concerned that the poll will provide unstoppable momentum to the Palestinian demand for an independent state.

Pressure is growing on opponents of Mr Arafat and his dominant Palestinian faction, Fatah, to put up candidates after declarations by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and others opposed to the Oslo peace deal that they would stage a boycott.

☐ **Settlers attacked:** Two Jewish settlers were stabbed and slightly wounded in Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday by a Palestinian youth, who was shot dead by an Israeli policeman.

New York Muslims fell Christmas trees

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE Christmas trees have been taken down at New York's Grand Central station. They were ruled to be insufficiently Islamic, and might have offended Muslims.

The removal followed a complaint by a New York-based Islamic group about "sectarian symbols". The National Council on Islamic Affairs complained that it could find no example, amid the Christmas baubles, of the crescent and star, the symbols of Islam.

Metro-North Railroad, which runs the station, agreed to take down the trees. Donald Nelson, its president, replied to Muhammad Mehdi, the council's secretary-general, that "we appreciate and share your concerns". Mr Nelson was influenced by a recent Supreme Court ruling that public places must provide "equal access" to all religions.

The move has not impressed commuters. Eric Donaldson said: "They should have a great big tree with a star on the top — the works." Hector Santiago, an employee of Metro-North railways, said: "It just doesn't feel the same. What's the big deal?"

Mr Mehdi said: "We are simply asking for equal rights. America is no longer a Judaeo-Christian society."

There are about ten million Muslims in the United States. Mr Mehdi dismissed arguments that there was no Muslim festival to enjoy at this time of year and cited USA Muslim Day, a newish festival that can be celebrated throughout December, allowing Muslims to "celebrate the bounties and freedoms of living in America".

After a brief conversation yesterday, this correspondent wished Dan Brucker, a Metro-North spokesman, a "happy Christmas". "No," he replied, "I think you mean happy holidays."

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OK, what's so funny about Jack Dee, then?

Jack Dee's transformation from an alternative comic to TV host has been greeted with derision. Does he deserve it?

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

THE new television variety show, *Jack Dee's Saturday Night*, took off last week on Channel 4 with Jack Dee, winner of this year's British Comedy Award, doing a routine of a cat vomiting a fur ball. Lynne Truss, in *The Times*, enjoyed that bit. Elsewhere, the show was thoroughly panned. ("Pretty grim" — *The Guardian*. "Jack it in, Dee" — *The Sun*.)

I met Jack Dee the day before the first show. Did he ever smile, people asked me. Not a lot. But then his cat, Poppet, had died a few days before, in his arms. And since the show was pre-recorded, he would be seen callously mocking a sick cat ("Looking like an empty pyjama case"). "I felt really awful about that," he said. "Poppet was the most wonderful character. But my wife said, 'It's a tribute to him in a way'."

He is intelligent, articulate — a bit odd. But I have now watched the two forthcoming *Jack Dee Saturday Nights*, and they are dire. The acts are, with the exception of the Victor Borge-like Jim Tavare, mostly garish, crass, vulgar. Jack does little except ask for a big hand for his next guest — and look sneery and cheesed off. The ITV network, Dee told me yesterday, is "delighted" with the viewing figures of eight million-plus. But this is not the same Dee of the cult *Jack Dee Live*. The one who gave us that classic dog versus cat routine. (Dog watches you putting up a shelf, wagging its tail: "I love you, you're so clever." A cat watches you with contempt: "It'll never stay up. You need a Rawlplug in that wall.")

He has a feline look himself: a clean-shaven Jack Nicholson in a natty three-piece suit. Today he is in a brown check, like a prosperous pig farmer. The suits say: "I come from the working world. I'm no drop-out."

He was lucky in his name. Short, like him, and "you can have it huge on posters". He was born James, but became Jacques in French lessons at his first school, Pilgrims in the shadow of Winchester Cathedral: "A traditional, buttoned-up little prep school," says the Good Schools Guide, with a uniform of "Lovat green sweaters and bashful expressions".

He was a lazy and unmotivated boy. Pilgrims is famous for its choristers and he did not sing. "It specialised in excellence — recognising it I mean. Not creating it. Those who didn't excel were marginalised. And I was un-excellent in every field."

His parents took him away to a comprehensive. "But I don't think I would have been happy at any school." He ended up at a sixth form college — "a convalescent period in my education: I got involved in the drama and began to uncover my own personality. But I still didn't work.

"I told my parents my A-level results on the phone: 'Not very good I'm afraid. An F and a D. What do you think I should do next?' And my dad said: 'I should have some breakfast if I were you.' Good advice, really.

"If I'd worked as hard at school as I do now, I'd have got to Cambridge. After school I became very disciplined, very focused."

First he focused on playing the role of commis-waiter: presentable, efficient. He decided he would have a chain of restaurants. "I would learn the whole thing: cooking, stock control, finance, paperwork, the bar. Catering college — forget it. You can get eight years' experience in three years in London, if you're bright, and never be out of work."

He managed Porter's, the Earl of Bradford's restaurant in Covent Garden ("He would ring up from his estate on Sundays to ask how things were going, and would always make the same comment: 'Isn't the music a little loud?'), then L S Grunt's, the American pizza joint. Don't you want to go on stage? the waiters, resting actors, would ask. "I was always holding court and entertaining people."

Instead, he next focused on the Church. He was at the Ritz "the bum's rush of all jobs", and wandered into St James's, Piccadilly, encountering the charismatic rector, Donald Reeves. "He was an inspiration, very kind to me. I was 24 and very confused. I was on the wrong train and didn't know where to get off. And this coincided with a spiritual experience which I think was an invention of my subconscious. I was quite nutty about God for a year.

> He does little except ask for a big hand for his next guest

"I would let the Bible fall open at a page and convince myself that the passage conferred some meaning. So life became somewhat intense and codified for a while. Very strange. I realise now I had a kindergarten idea of religion. I felt I was being told to give up my life to God and preach the message. I wasn't sure what the message was. But celibacy was part of it."

Reeves astutely let him see the the Director of Ordinands, who realised at once that Dee was unsuitable material for the pulpit. (Christian charity, you note, is entirely absent from his stage persona.) "And I didn't go to church; that was a bit of a drawback in an ordinand. I thought of it as being about performing and expressing yourself.

"I didn't ever watch telly, I was totally unaware of *The Young Ones*, didn't know who Alexei Sayle and Ben Elton were.

"So when I did walk into the Comedy Store it was a total eye-opener. There was Paul Merton, Julian Clary, the Joan Collins Fan Club, Jeremy Hardy. I wanted to be part of it. I felt they'd all started without me, and I knew I had that spark. I decided to stop feeling that I could only be a spectator in life. I thought, I'm going to be a player.

"So I had a go, put my name down and got up on stage: it was 2am, so most of the audience had left, except the drunken residue. I was only on for a few minutes but the guy who runs the Store said, you must come back.

"It was the big moment, the blinding light, the missing link, and I'd found it. You're a comedian, and that's what's been wrong. When I fooled around at school and got a laugh, it never occurred to me that that was a thing you could use in life."

He was still a barman off Oxford Street when an agent rang and offered to represent him on the college circuit. Dee wore a jacket and tie even then: "With a student audience it means you're not trying to ingratiate yourself." He started doing corporate conferences "a no-win situation, huge dance floor between you and the audience. No infection of laughter. And hecklers can take over the show — so you come off feeling as if you've been in a fight. When the gloves are off, audiences are quite surprised at how low I'll go to undercut them." In 1991 he was Most Promising Newcomer in the Comedy Awards.

Dee is now 34, which counts as young these days. His early comic heroes were Bob Newhart, Peter Sellers, Peter Cook. Now he had met Newhart and Bob Monkhouse. "Has Bob ever found those joke books he lost?" I asked. "Don't think so." "Do you keep books of jokes now?" "I've got his books."

> 'It was the big moment, the light, the missing link'

He met his wife Jane when he was running a restaurant called Jake's, in Fulham. She rang him up one day and asked him out to dinner; Jack told her he was too busy. "Well I was," he says. He was spending all his time off at the comedy clubs. "She never lets me forget it. We have a quarrel about it, about once a quarter." They live in a Victorian terraced house in Wandsworth with their daughters, Hattie and Phoebe.

My children love Jack Dee. Luckily the college circuit has a collective mental age of 14, a short attention span and a babyish response to anything about vomit, animals or the lavatory. I can see that nobody can resemble a rabbit putting on Oil of Ulay as Dee can. But what about broadening his appeal?

"Yes, I'm always vaguely aware that this is only the beginning. I want to be able to make the grown-ups laugh as well, not to be exclusive. But you share a comedy shorthand with a young audience, you watch the same TV shows, you listen to the same bands, you know they're of a like mind."

DAVID HUTCHINSON

Jack Dee — a Jack Nicholson type in a natty three-piece suit with a good line in sneers

But how would he get on without "shag" and "crap" to get a burst of laughter from infantile audiences? Lenny Bruce started it, now they all do it: it is not clever, and not funny. Any of the genuinely inventive minds on *Whose Line is it Anyway*, *I'm Sorry I haven't a Clue* and so on, can prosper without it.

As the Sun's TV critic Garry Bushell said, the ingredient any variety show needs warmth, and "Dee has the personality of a toothache". It seems to me utterly amazing that Caroline Hook's Mrs Merton — who does have warmth, and remarkable adaptability (e.g. when having to to deal with a silent, menacing Chris Eubank) — got nowhere in the British Comedy Awards this year.

The late Frankie Howerd once told me "you can't really explain humour, except that it's very much a matter of one's cup of tea". Quite. It is a precarious business, stand-up comic fame. Not for the insecure.

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THEY CRY WITH THEIR BOOTS ON

In **The Magazine** Zoë Heller goes to a boot camp in the US to see if the verbal abuse and five-mile runs make model citizens out of delinquents

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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The staying power of the corset

MARTIN BEDDALL

Corset-maker Ian Voller knows the ropes: "You should lace it until you have a gap at the back of one to one and a half inches on the waistline"

Breathe in, ladies — the corset is back, worn as both under and outerwear. **Julia Llewellyn Smith** bones up on the intricacies of laces and stays

They prod your ribcage, leave you gasping for breath and make you look like an extra from *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Corsets, say the feminists, are uncomfortable, demeaning and, in this age of Lycra, totally unnecessary. Yet this Christmas women will be taking deep breaths and clinging to the bedpost, while their mothers, flatmates or partners haul them into contraptions which make medieval torture instruments seem positively enlightened.

Ever since Madonna encased her breasts in Jean Paul Gaultier cones, every smart girl has realised the appeal of underwear as outerwear. This winter, however, trendsetters have begun to realise the value of underwear as underwear.

Pride and Prejudice convinced a nation of bra burners that a heaving décolletage was the only way to attract a Mr Darcy in time for Christmas. At the autumn fashion collections, hourglass girls sashayed down the catwalk all décolletage and derrière with only a wasp waist to separate them. Fashion victims soon realised that it would take more than a year's worth of step classes to produce the same effect. But a casing of whalebone and a sharp tug of laces could construct the necessary curves in seconds.

"Everyone is looking to a more structured look, as a backlash to grunge," says Kate Reardon, the style director of *Tatler*. "Women are wearing neat tailored suits and the high street is churning out corset dresses for evening wear. Corsets are like high heels; they may be uncomfortable but they are enormously flattering."

"People are prepared to put up with discomfort to get a fantastic figure," says Cheryl Gordon of Agent Provocateur, where the trendies of Soho buy corsets to wear under jackets with jeans. "When I wear mine I can't sit down for the first hour, but I struggle on because it looks great."

Ian Voller of Vollers Corsets in Portsmouth, which manufactures corsets for deparment stores such as John Lewis and Harvey Nichols, says that business has increased by 400 per cent since 1991, when he took over from his uncle. "We had to take on six new staff this Christmas to cope with demand," he says.

It takes two hours to make up a corset in satin or cotton. "The fabrics have to be very rigid so there is no give," says Mr Voller. The corset is cut and stitched, binding is inserted and steel bones (whalebone is no more) inserted. Finally, the eyelets for laces are put in.

"Your corset measurement is two to four inches below that of your natural waist size," says Mr Voller. "Our sizes range from 18 to 38 inches, although the most popular are between 22 to 26 inches. You should lace it until you have a gap at the back of one to one and a half inches on the waistline. People want to be comfortable in their corsets, so we don't sell many 18-inch ones, except to Japan, nor many very large ones either. Most of our customers have lovely figures."

Older customers, he says, are still buying corsets as underwear, but younger buyers will wear theirs as evening wear, with a long skirt. "Apparently, Shirley Bassey bought one the other day and Glenn Close bought four."

At Fenwicks department store in Bond Street, Vollers corsets have been selling like hangover cures after a Christmas party. "We have been selling basques for ages, but since we started stocking proper lace-up corsets at £89 in August we have had to restock contantly," says a spokeswoman, Mary Flack. "We also sell £400 brocade embroidered corsets from Paris and we are on our third delivery. They are extremely enhancing and people are very impressed. Our girls lace you into them in the shop, so then when you take it home you only have to fasten the poppers at the front. We didn't think people had the time or money for a lady's maid these days."

Ever since Bronze-Age Cretan maidens decided to fight the flab with wood-enforced garments in the year 2,000BC, women have been doing everything they can to whittle their waist. "Anthropologists believe that the waist is the thing that makes women most attractive to men, and breasts and bottoms are important only in that they accentuate it. A small waist proves that the woman isn't already pregnant with another man's child."

The great seductresses all found the corset to be an indispensable seduction tool. Nell Gwyn wandered the streets of London with a tray of oranges balanced strategically beneath her milky, heaving bosom. The legendary Scarlett O'Hara clung to the four-poster bed, urging faithful Mammy to give her an 18-inch waist, before going out to garner proposals from scores of besotted suitors.

Neither of these women had much in common with the Victorians who would visit their physicians with splinters, damaged livers and often displaced ribs. Even those who suffered no injury frequently found their undergarments stained with blood. A few decades later, the overt sexuality of the *fin-de-siècle* basque in velvet and satin recalls Calamity Jane saloon queens and Parisian music-halls.

Waists were liberated at the beginning of the 20th century, but constrained again in the 1950s when the smoothness of line required to wear Christian Dior's New Look became the fashionable Holy Grail. By then man-made materials had replaced whalebone, with the result that these garments were very definitely meant to stay under clothes. "I remember seeing models in ther waspies, as we called them, at fashion shows and there was no element of come-hither about them, they looked horrendous," says Rosemary Hawthorne, a clothes historian. "If you put your arm round their waist, it would feel rigid.

> 'Everyone wants a structured look as a backlash to grunge'

"Today corsets are very definitely about the titillation factor. A woman will wear one with a masculine jacket and let you have a quick flash."

Americans have already taken the corset to their bosoms. For her role as a gun-toting biker babe in *Barb Wire* Pamela Anderson was squeezed into a black leather contraption that reduced her 22-inch waist to a bone-crunching 17 inches. For the cover of April's *Vanity Fair* Nicole Kidman donned a Dolce and Gabbana corset, while Jennifer Jason Leigh was in a girdle.

For true aficionados, control can become a way of life. In this month's American *Vogue*, Pearl, a New York corsetière, shows off his 18-inch waist, the result of wearing a corset 23 hours a day, removing it only to wash.

Those who think they can achieve the same effect with an hour a day at the gym, a Wonderbra and control-top knickers are missing the point. Corsets are about allure, and no amount of step classes can give you that.

INSIDE SECTION 2

Tasteless? Arguably. Mindless? Probably. Profitable? Certainly. Paul Sexton charts the amazing rise of the Eternal record label Page 31

A strait-laced week

MONDAY: Waists, say the style police, are this season's must-have fashion accessory, along with the Prada bag and Gucci hipsters, *Julia Llewellyn Smith writes*. This is bad news for a girl with a stomach to rival that of a champion darts player. Desperate measures are required. I call Ian Voller of Vollers Corsets in Portsmouth. Ian can tell that I am nervous at the idea of encasing my torso in a contraption that my great-grandmother would have thought anachronistic.

"Don't worry," Ian says sweetly. "These days putting on a corset should be no more uncomfortable than a pair of tight jeans."

TUESDAY: *The Times* workforce is amazed to hear gasps, squeals and cries of "Stop, stop now!" emanating from the ladies' lavatories. Unlike Lizzie Bennet, I do not have a devoted sister Jane to haul me into my Vollers black satin corset; so Anj, my colleague, has volunteered. Ian has sent diagrams to help us, which bear an alarming resemblance to instructions for producing the Christmas roast.

Trussing complete, I feel like an early Christian martyr. All the air has been compressed out of me, and if someone were to stick a pin into my bosom it would probably burst. But the effect when I look in the mirror is literally breathtaking. I look a size smaller, have an ironing-board stomach and a perfect Coke-bottle figure. OK, it hurts, but so would the alternative: 1,000 sit-ups a day.

WEDNESDAY: First, the bad news: you may look like Jessica Rabbit in your corset, but you feel like Miss Piggy. You no longer walk, you mince. You don't bend over for fear of being cut in two. You find youself having to abandon a sausage baguette halfway because there is nowhere in your (22-inch) stomach for it to go.

The good news: a miraculously improved posture, Barbie doll curves, and a pneumatic bosom that heaves prettily.

THURSDAY: I have an insurmountable problem. What do you wear over a corset? A baggy garment is pointless, but a slinky one simply does not work. Lycra may emphasise your shapely waist, but it also highlights the machinery that has produced it. A corset's lumpy laces and stays are clearly visible under a tight top. Ian Voller says that most regular wearers cut off the laces when they have the perfect fit and don't seem to mind the boning showing.

Not that I want to wear something revealing, when it is minus eight outside and my décolletage has the texture of a plucked frozen chicken. Decide nonetheless to lace a little tighter this morning. My breathing is becoming so laboured I am beginning to sound like Marilyn Monroe about to break into *Happy Birthday, Mr President*.

FRIDAY: As my corset will not work as underwear, I resolve to wear it as outerwear, teamed with leggings. The effect is meant to be Vivien Leigh in her boudoir, but instead turns out as Gloria Gaynor in an ill-fitting boob tube. Realise that although my belly is now concave, I have a new figure nightmare to contend with: flabby upper arms. There is also a decency question: the top of the corset runs just above my nipples and any sudden movement, let alone dancing, is out of the question. Nor will I be able to talk to anyone taller than me, who will have an aeriel view of my cleavage. Put a jacket on top of the ensemble and resolve to remove it only if very drunk. Having been unable to eat all week, this may happen very quickly.

At that night's party, all my friends comment on my new voluptuousness, and demand to know my secret. Confess to a couple of girlfriends, who insist on dragging off the jacket and making me give them a twirl. No one is sure whether I am making a witty post-feminist statement or am determined to find myself pinned up against the wall by some piece of pond life, sweatily inquiring whether I would like any help undressing later. I replace the jacket.

Sway over to an old male friend, who slips his arm around my waist as he kisses my cheek. "What are you wearing?" he shrieks. "A corset," I mutter, kicking him viciously. "Oh yes," he says. "I knew it felt familiar. You could be my granny."

The author in an Agent Provocateur corset

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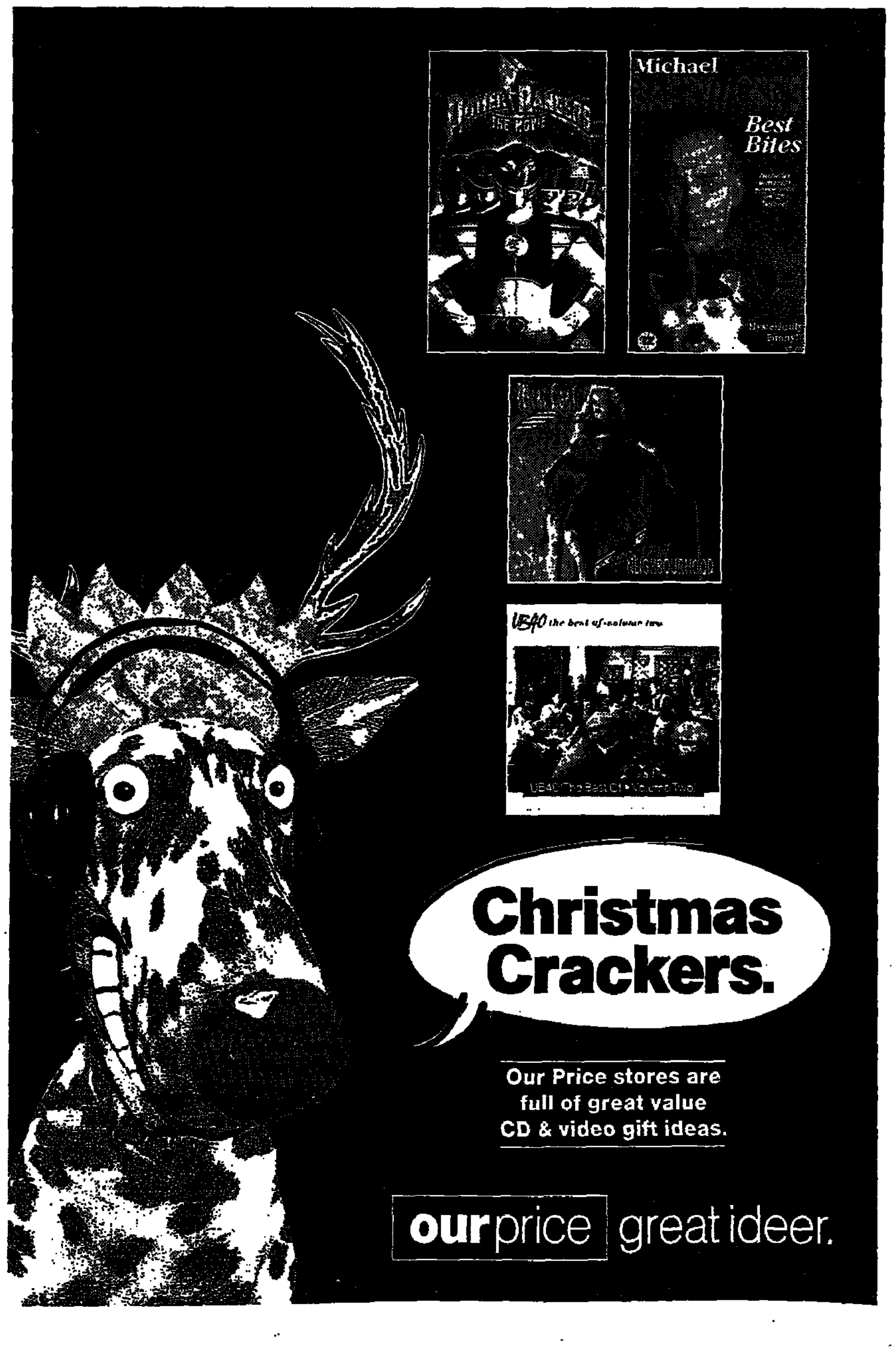
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Race riot or just class war?

Paul Barker reflects on why Brixton is ablaze again

John Major keeps reminding us that Brixton is where he grew up. It is also where he entered politics. But Brixton has just reaffirmed its greater fame as the riot capital of Britain. After 1981 and 1985, we can now add 1995 to the battle scars.

In Brixton in 1981, petrol bombs were thrown for the first time on the British mainland. Lord Scarman thereafter wrote a celebrated report in which he described that year's confrontation as essentially an anti-police riot. Dishearteningly, the new confrontation made one think that nothing had changed in the intervening decade-and-a-half. Yet this was the first area of London to have a police consultative committee — regarded as a model to be followed elsewhere. Millions of pounds of urban regeneration money have been poured in. But some of this went into the very buildings that the latest rioters set alight.

"Brixton has acquired a symbolic importance for the black community," says Professor David Smith, the leading author of studies on race and policing in Britain. "It is the headquarters of Afro-Caribbeanism." In this role, it has taken over from Notting Hill, which still has its annual carnival, but which is now home to few West Indian families.

The Notting Hill Carnival has gradually lost the link with riot and danger which historians associate with carnivals down the ages. Brixton undoubtedly has the aura of danger. Yet it, too, is far from being a black ghetto. Many houses have been gentrified by middle-class whites.

Is what happened in Brixton really a race riot? Or is it a class riot, bringing together the poor in one explosive mix? Many of the rioters — in 1995 as in other years — were white.

The local borough, Lambeth, is far from being the worst-off in Britain. The East London boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets jostle for that grim title. Professor Smith speaks optimistically of the emergence of a black middle class. (This has been slow to appear. Most West Indian immigrants began a long way down the class scale; they came to Britain to carry out semi-skilled and unskilled jobs.) But Brixton is pockmarked by neighbourhoods where, among both whites and blacks, to have a job seems like a distant dream.

Though young black men are especially hostile to the police, studies show that all young working-class men in big cities tend to be hostile. The big division isn't race, it is age and class. The middle-aged and the middle-class are the greatest supporters of law and order.

Looking at urban change in the United States, a black American sociologist, William Julius Wilson, wrote a book called *The Declining Significance of Race*. By this he meant that within American cities, class divisions were becoming increasingly important. Middle-class blacks, helped by equal opportunities policies, were moving out of the ghettoes. The old territory was being abandoned to "gangstas", and to young men who proudly adopted the old scornful name "nigger" to mark themselves off from the newly suburbanised blacks.

Something similar may be happening in Brixton. But though black and white may riot together, blacks have (so far) taken the lead. In Professor Smith's words, "Hostility to the police is important in the development of a politicised black identity. The police are the most convenient representatives of what is seen as repression."

This was epitomised by the headlines in the black newspaper *The Voice* after Wayne Douglas's death in Brixton police station. Douglas was arrested after apparently breaking into a family's flat and threatening them with a knife. The paper said he had been beaten up. After the rioting, a director of Brixton Challenge was quoted as saying, "The reason this is happening is because the police killed another black guy." Yet this is an organisation set up to help Brixton to go on to better things.

It is hard not to ask "What hope is there?" The chances of businesses deciding to locate in and around Brixton will have fallen. The chances of coaxing good teachers into its schools will have shrunk. Whatever happened to Wayne Douglas in custody — and we do not yet know — the latest rioting is a self-inflicted wound.

> The rioting is a self-inflicted wound

Experience shows that it is very hard to help a district to pull itself up by its bootstraps. After the riots of 1981 — in Toxteth as well as in Brixton — Michael Heseltine wrote a Cabinet memo headed "It took a riot". He focused, then, on Liverpool more than on Brixton. He invented the Merseyside Urban Development Corporation as the lever of change. Little social change has resulted. The galleries, cafés and trinket shops of the heritage Albert Dock sparkle on the waterfront. But Liverpool's actual docks are racked with strikes yet again. The most flourishing local industry, gambling, is threatened by the National Lottery. And there is hardly a black face to be seen in Albert Dock (or, come to that, in the real docks).

In Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police have a Commissioner as shrewd as they are ever likely to have. On the one hand, he took a high risk, in launching Operation Eagle (against street crime) when he said that the West Indian community must accept that most muggers are black. On the other hand, he knows better than anyone the importance of making sure that lawbreakers and law-abiders don't make common cause.

Say not the struggle naught availeth. We just have to keep trying. A city has never been an easy place to run.

The author is a senior fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.

Councils of despair

The little man in his office cannot resist wielding his tiny power

Bernard Levin

When I see a headline reading "Man takes lawn into his own hands to bury his bungalow" I prick up my ears. I have seen all sorts of sights in my long life, including a totally plastered Cabinet minister falling down two flights of stairs, and I simply cannot understand how he was doing it. (The bungalow man, not the Cabinet minister.)

So I examined the subject more closely, and when I had fully understood how (to say nothing of why) a man would bury his bungalow, I was rather less amused. Indeed, I made haste to wipe the smile off my face. For this story is far from funny.

Mr Trevor Sedgbeer and his wife Lauretta live in Devon, and Mr Sedgbeer built a bungalow; many do, and in this case did. But he built his bungalow — italic, printers, for the awfulness of what now comes: *he built his bungalow without planning permission*. Now, short of murder, there is nothing so wicked as a man who builds a bungalow without planning permission, or, to be more exact, there is nothing so wicked as a man who builds a bungalow *when the man who deals out permissions has not given his say-so.*

I have said a thousand times that power should be used upside down: the bigger the slice of it the more wary the user should be, and *vice versa*. And when it comes to a Devon bungalow permission-giver, the very tiniest scrap of the heady stuff should be used only with the head immersed in a bowl of very cold water.

It is not clear whether the offence was that the bungalow was in the wrong place, or whether it had not been approved, or both. But after much wrangling, the courts demanded the destruction of Mr Sedgbeer's bungalow.

Mr Sedgbeer complied with the order to destroy his bungalow, which came down flat. Now I have, in my time, done some rum things, but never before have I found myself invited to go about digging holes for bungalows, and I politely demurred. But on inquiring further, I learnt that to bury a bungalow means shifting several hundred tons of earth. It seems that Mr Sedgbeer was in earnest when he said that he would give the authorities their wish with knobs on — several hundred tons of knobs. The battle continued; for a time, any member of the council passing by would have seen nothing but the flatness that had been required. But then, it seems, at least as the council would have it, Mr Sedgbeer's home had risen from the earth — grimy no doubt — and the struggle was renewed: was the earth flat enough, or had Mr Sedgbeer merely repeated his crime? He says: "I have obeyed the court ruling by taking the building down to the original ground level of the site. I have done all they have asked me to do." It is not for me to adjudicate, but what chills my blood is those terrible, those most terrible words, which came from from the lips of someone in the council (they *always* come from the lips of someone in the council): "We cannot allow one person to contravene the law while making others abide by it. We are determined that the building should be removed."

Oh, sing it to the birds, play it on the accordion, whistle it while you work, but it will still be the same ancient rubric: "What if everybody did it?"

What indeed — for Mr Sedgbeer has just been put in prison for a three-month stretch for not destroying his home at the council's behest.

Oh, *what* if everybody did it? I am tempted to answer that the council members would be beside themselves with joy.

But now we must go from Devon to Leicestershire. Here, there is no tinge of amusement, even if there was before. A Mr Pickavant had an 18th-century cottage on his farmland, which he was lovingly restoring. But the council (oh, yes, there *is* always someone from the council) said to Mr Pickavant that there could be only one dwelling on the farm, a bungalow, which Pickavant senior would occupy. But the 18th-century dwelling was for Pickavant junior, who was to live in it with his lady. But if there is a bungalow and an 18th-century cottage on the same farm — well, two ones make two.

Mr Sedgbeer was reasonably young and sprightly. Mr Picakavant is 67, and when *his* struggle began (oh, yes, there was a struggle) he collapsed; he came round just in time to see his world crushed. And crushed is the right word, because the council (oh, yes, yes, yes, there was someone from the council to watch, and for all I know to look smug) had engaged ten policemen — six of whom were in riot gear — and a giant digger. And the digger was not a toy one. It worked.

And the work of four years (not counting the people in the 18th century who started the cottage) was destroyed.

Yes, yes, yes, the law is the law and must be obeyed. Mr Pickavant had already been fined £500, and a judge had said he was "stubborn and foolish", which indeed he probably was, though it would be a good idea if the judge in question took a 40-year holiday.

But that again is not the point. The point is that someone from the council said — oh, but you know what I am going to say now; the people from the council said: "If we failed to enforce the order, it would open the floodgates for everyone else to build houses without planning permission in the countryside."

Ah, the angels weep; you can hear them clearly if the wind is in the right direction. And their tears speak volumes: "enforce the order", "floodgates", "contravene the law", "if we failed to", "while making others abide by it", "planning permission", "planning permission", "planning permission".

But now we are in the countryside, where things are done differently, but if we pack up and head for the smoky air of the town, do not think that councils have disappeared and we can smile. Because Mr Brian Godfrey of Ilkeston has nothing to smile about.

He is a greengrocer by trade, and he displays his wares on the pavement, as countless greengrocers have done through the ages. Indeed, I am told that that has been the same site in Ilkeston for some 30 years at least. Of course, his boxes are put against the window of his shop, not on the kerb side, and of course he pays rent to the council for a foot and a half of the pavement. But Mr Godfrey has now come up against the same kind of people as those you have just been reading about.

Thirty years have passed with this familiar scene, but now the council (well, of course it was the council — who did you think it was?) has decided to puff out its chest and ruin Mr Godfrey. It claims that his 18 inches of pavement are dangerous, especially for blind or disabled people, though it seems that there has been no accident at all with Mr Godfrey's wares. He says:

> People like to see fresh fruit and vegetables in front of the shop, not through the window. It is something you see in high streets everywhere. It is ridiculous to suggest I have no heed for safety. I have had no complaints, but the council cannot accept that they might be wrong. We have customers who are in wheelchairs. Except for the council, nobody has complained.

When Mr Godfrey stood his ground and ignored the council (hurrah! may there be many more ignorings!), he was taken to court by Derbyshire County Council —there's splendour for you! — *and the wowsers lost!* The magistrates — may the sun shine upon them — ruled that he was not causing an obstruction. The victorious Mr Godfrey, as a handsome token of reconciliation, announced that he was going to halve the space of his display. And what followed? But you know, of course, what followed.

Smarting from the defeat, the council asked the High Court to overturn the magistrates' ruling. And alas, it did. The judge — may he get chilblains — gave the wrong answer, and you could *hear* the smug smiles on the faces of the county council. And another innocent, useful, happy, hard-working man is ruined. And oh, yes, you will certainly know what comes now in this case. Yes, the bossman did say — these were the very words: "If we had made an exception for Mr Godfrey, a precedent could have been set which could have affected the rights of pavement users throughout the country." That's glory for you!

Remember the rule? The rule that says the smaller the quantity of power, the greater the yearning to exercise it? And have I not just demonstrated that sad truth?

Philip Howard

Some lessons in home ecology work better than others

Of course we need to preserve our biodiversity. Bring back our otters. Save the red squirrel. I am prepared even to have my "aaahs" wrung because the horned dung-beetle has not been sighted since 1955, although it does not look as cuddly as the aforementioned species.

But you lose some, you win some. Danish biologists have discovered a new phylum or life form called Pandora. She sounds even more problematic than a dung-beetle. For Pandora lives on the lips of the lobster, looks like an animated cold sore, and has two penises and a circular mouth ring next to her/his anus. Linda McCartney has just spent £3,000 to keep the fattest turkey in the land from stuffing. Dempsey, not quite a macho bull terrier, has been saved from execution for the less certain fate of going to live with Brigitte Bardot. And West Midlands Travel has given a hamster called Sweep a free travel pass for having erroneously charged it 45p for a ticket.

How serendipitous of the Birmingham bus company to have hit upon this latest threatened species. You may think that there are plenty of hamsters in their natural habitat of plastic cages in kindergartens, pedalling their tiny treadmills through the night with the irritating narcissism of joggers. But their numbers are declining.

It was decided that at six, Harry is old enough to keep a hamster. I demurred, because hamsters are characterless and best spit-roasted by Peruvian Little Hamsterburger salesmen. But also because the household is unhealthy for them. It is already kennel to three generations of Jack Russell terriers. To add a hamster is like billeting a Christian in the lion-cage.

Accordingly, a tricky navigation was made to the finest hamster-breeding-ground in London, and a long-haired apricot-coloured hamster was bought. I thought it should be named for a plant, like the Russells: Heather, Haggis, Poppy and so on. Parsnip, I said. So it was called Hamish. The Russells were fascinated by their new flatmate, straining like greyhounds in the slips, and also at short-leg, even at its used litter. And within a day, Hamish and cage had been dislodged by Russell high-jump record, and Hamish lay dead of heart-attack from terror at being attacked by three sabre-toothed monsters in the proportion of Nelson's Column to a human.

I thought the point of pets was to teach children the facts of death as well as the duty of looking after other species. But the majority view was that Harry would never forgive the Russells if he was told what had happened. So Hamish was buried in the garden surreptitiously and silently at dead of night. And a substitute Hamish was introduced to his cage. However, Hamish Mark II had short hair and understandably, recognising the slaughterhouse he had come to, he bit. The former biodiversity could be explained as a haircut from the local vet. But the latter was intolerable.

So Hamish was returned to store, and Hamish Mark III was smuggled into the cage. He had long hair and was the right colour, but there was a white blaze on his shoulders. This was explained by saying hair could turn white from shock, as that of the grandmother Russell had on the spot where I once spilt coffee on her. But the next day Hamish Mark III in his travelling cage was left in the car with the Russells while a child was dropped off. In the split-second before human biodiversity was restored, Hamish was spread all over the seats, and the car was full of blood and smug Russells.

There was no possibility or profit in any more *Doppelgänger* stories. So we now have a long-haired grey hamster, called Patch. Three times in three days we have experienced the shock-horror of *The Sun's* most famous headline, "Freddie Starr Ate My Hamster". So remember, a hamster is not just for Christmas. It is just for Friday — and possibly just for Friday breakfast. The point of pets is to teach children that animals are not cuddly toys, but also serial killers. Cats bring home trophy pigeons. The Russells sometimes catch a squirrel in the park to the horror of the Scandinavian tourists and causing their Bad Samaritan walker to walk rapidly by on the other side. At the rate we are going, the UN convention on endangered species must make a new entry under "H" for the delicious little rodents.

Little urn

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S Christmas card, showing his two sons apparently popping out of terracotta pots like characters in a Samuel Beckett play, could not have been more appropriate. His Royal Highness is planning a princely gardening roadshow, along the lines of *Gardeners' Question Time.*

He is booked to appear as part of a panel of gardening experts to answer questions about Highgrove's gardens and horticultural matters at the Opera House in Buxton, Derbyshire.

Sources at Buckingham Palace suggest that the event, to be held in late January before a fee-paying audience, will be repeated at other venues. The Prince will be joined on stage by Rosemary Verey, his gardening consultant at Highgrove, and by the Duchess of Devonshire, who is among the most green-fingered of aristocrats.

Last spring, the Prince admitted to a lifelong passion for urns and pots, and described himself as the "potty prince" when he first spoke in public about his gardens at Highgrove. He said he collects clay vessels on his foreign travels. Many are 3ft high, he said, and some had caused delivery problems — in particular one which he asked to be sent from Assisi. "When it arrived on a lorry in a large packing case it was addressed simply to the Prince of Wales, Tetbury," he said. "They took it straight to the local pub."

The Christmas card: are the princes rehearsing *Endgame*?

No takers

DOESN'T anybody out there want to conduct a famous opera company? At the London Coliseum, English National Opera is searching for a new music director after the shock resignation of young Sian Edwards. But despite the allure of working with ENO's roly-poly boss Dennis Marks, everybody seems to have declined the offer.

Paul Daniel of Opera North in Leeds is said to have spurned the chance to move to the bright lights. Ivor Bolton, a rising conductor of the Baroque persuasion, has also turned down the opportunity. And so has David Atherton — although the ENO management still has hopes of twisting his baton-arm.

Not tonight

RELATIONS between the grinning crooner Des O'Connor and the hamster-eating comic Freddie Starr have plumbed new depths, after a television interview between the two became so difficult that it will not be screened. Thames Television says only that the exchange went "too far" for the interview to appear on *Des O'Connor Tonight.*

Matters went from bad to worse, apparently after Freddie Starr spontaneously blew his nose on Des O'Connor's tie.

But yesterday the coiffeured chat-show host was glossing over the affair. "What's in a tie?" he said. "Freddie once ruined an entire Armani suit when he pulled me into a fountain."

Body building

SIR RICHARD BODY, the maverick MP for Holland with Boston, was not in the mood to offer John Major any solace on Wednesday night, even though the Government's majority has fallen to just five.

Sir Richard, who no longer takes the Conservative whip and is therefore counted as an Opposition MP, was holding court at the *Private Eye* Christmas party. He dismissed suggestions that he was about to return to the government fold with a wave of his arm: "My negotiating position is strengthening all the time," he explained.

● *Talk in the House of Commons yesterday was of an extraordinary event witnessed by Members in the Commons smoking room. Bill Cash, the arch Euro-sceptic, was seen to be talking for the first time in public to Ted Heath, the man who took us into Europe. The festive season is surely upon us.*

BRIXTON SW2
ONLY 10 MORE LOOTING DAYS TIL CHRISTMAS

Titillation

PRODUCTION of a documentary about Page 3 girls, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their first appearance, has caused tension among the politically correct at BBC North.

For the purposes of research, pictures of semi-clad models were hung in the production office. This raised objections among certain members of staff. Harmony was restored only when strategically placed Post-it notes were stuck over the assets that made the girls famous.

● *Visitors to the Westminster offices of John Redwood's think-tank, Conservative 2000, will soon be met by an inspirational collection of modern British art on display. A West End gallery — doubtless with Euro-sceptic credentials — has lent Redwood 14 pictures to decorate his walls, in the hope that his well-heeled supporters may be tempted to buy.*

P·H·S

FLAMES OF GREED

Brixton should not be blamed for its tiny criminal minority

The spectacle of Brixton in flames this week has evoked bad memories of the riots of 1981 and 1985. For a few hours, its streets raged with a fury not seen in this part of London for many years. Most chilling was the vicious attack on PC John Tisshaw, who might well have been killed had a motorist not intervened. No policeman has forgotten the murder of Keith Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm riots in Tottenham a decade ago. It seemed, for a dreadful moment, that history was repeating itself.

Yet it was not. The disturbance in Brixton on Wednesday night had almost nothing in common with the riots of 14 years earlier. In 1981, the area was riven by racial struggle: relations between police and public were poor; little was being done by outside agencies to address local unemployment. In his inquiry into the riots, Lord Scarman gave warning that action must be taken to save Brixton from complete social breakdown.

In the years since, extraordinary efforts have been made to improve Brixtonians' quality of life and to revitalise the local economy. Joblessness remains a severe problem and relations between the police and the community are far from perfect. But the circumstances of Wednesday's riot cannot be compared to the social context which spawned the disturbances of 1981. The riots 14 years ago were an upsurge of popular despair. This week's disorder was the criminal outburst of an irresponsible minority. It illustrated only how ruthlessly well-organised today's rioters have become and how quickly a legitimate political demonstration can degenerate into chaos. It has yet to be established whether the crowd had been infiltrated by far left groups but the speed with which violence was whipped up was suspiciously reminiscent of other recent disturbances where evidence of orchestration by militants has subsequently come to light. The police must investigate thoroughly the possibility that the disorder was actively encouraged by anarchist elements.

The riot began as a peaceful picket outside Brixton police station in protest at the death in custody of 25-year-old Wayne Douglas, a matter which is being investigated by the Police Complaints Authority. There is some evidence that the speakers at the demonstration used inflammatory language; the civil rights lawyer Rudy Narayan is alleged to have said that he would not fret "if a policeman is killed because he is behaving badly".

The behaviour of the rioters suggests that greed was a more important motive for their disorder than racism. They raided a sports shop in search of trainers and designer sports kit. They besieged a restaurant, terrifying the customers, and helped themselves to food. What started as a peaceful demonstration against alleged police racism quickly became a looter's paradise. The only principle these rioters were defending was material self-interest.

As Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday:"it wasn't Brixton that rioted last night, it was a small minority of thugs and criminals". In one night, they inflicted about £1 million of damage upon a community that can ill afford to pay for the repairs. In so doing, the rioters dealt a grievous blow to the area's plans for economic regeneration. The people of Brixton should not be confused with this criminal fringe element which disgraced their community this week.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

Clinton should move now to settle the budget bargain

It may lack the street activity of Paris but the other budget crisis in Washington deserves urgent attention too. For the past 15 years both the size of American public borrowing, and the means by which it has been financed, have been profoundly unstable for the global economy as well as the United States itself. The chief obstacle to a settlement has been political will. The events of the next week will indicate how much political will exists and who has it.

Throughout this year the Republican majority in Congress has sought a balanced budget within seven years. To this end it has taken some very tough decisions on domestic spending and entitlement programmes, and cushioned those with more popular items such as its proposed $245 billion tax cut. The radicalism and complexity of this task have forced deliberations beyond the legal starting date — October 1 — of the US fiscal year. Since then the federal Government has been running on interim funding measures, with the exception of a six-day shutdown, the longest ever, at Thanksgiving.

The Government went back to work then through an agreement by both sides to produce a balanced budget over the seven-year timetable, on economic projections determined chiefly by the Congressional Budget Office. Since then Republicans have passed their package, which was vetoed by the President on the grounds that its tax cuts were too large and the reductions in spending growth for Government-run health programmes — Medicare and Medicaid — too harsh.

Congress then asked the White House to produce a plan that met the agreed criteria. This the President largely ducked. His seven-year scheme of last week was based on economic projections from his own Office of Management and Budget that were farcically optimistic. Nor did he budge from his opening offer of reductions in entitlement programmes. Republicans have accused him of reneging on his promise.

If matters continue this way then the short-term funding agreed last month will expire at a minute past midnight on Saturday morning and much of the American Government will come to a standstill again. Republican leaders have indicated that they will extend present spending arrangements for another week if they believe the President will now seriously negotiate. They have hinted a willingness to trade part of their tax cut proposal for a softening of expenditure decisions in areas the White House wants protected. Updated economic projections by the Congressional Budget Office, while far short of the numbers from the White House economists, have reduced the gap between the two sides by more than $100 billion. The outlines of an outcome are evident. Republicans must concede part of their tax proposals and the Administration the need for greater discipline on health spending. Then a welcome move to fiscal responsibility can be delivered before Christmas.

To get there requires a move from the President. Mr Clinton has made much politically out of the process so far, and has been rewarded in public polls. He has endorsed the objective of a balanced budget and the timetable that Congress supports. Yet at the same time he has condemned the decisions essential to meeting that target. In particular he has mounted a populist defence of the very Medicare and Medicaid programmes whose careering costs, some three times inflation, have done most to deepen deficits in recent years. In the next few days the President can indicate whether he intends to honour his commitment and pursue the possible compromise. Some of his advisers are urging him to withdraw from deliberations and have parts of the federal Government either close down or run on ad hoc measures from now until November 1996. Such a course would be calamitous for the reputation of the United States. The President should bargain now.

LOST DAYLIGHT

The Butterfill bill needs proper time for debate

The Cabinet's decision to try to sabotage John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill on daylight-saving time is another sad instance of the weak will and shortsightedness which has brought John Major's Government to its present sorry pass. Whatever one thinks of the arguments about shifting an hour of daylight to the afternoons from the mornings, this is an issue of substantial public interest, perfect for a non-partisan decision in a Private Member's Bill. By refusing MPs the time to deal with this issue, the Government will not only be putting the sectional interests of a tiny minority of Scottish farmers against the clearly expressed views of a large majoriy of the British public. It will also be making a mockery of the parliamentary procedure, which should have allowed Mr Butterfill, who came top of the Private Members' ballot, a genuine free vote.

According to the best available evidence, an hour of extra light in the afternoons, at the expense of darker mornings, would result in 700 fewer road deaths and serious injuries each year. Children would benefit proportionally more than adults because 80 per cent of injuries to children occur when they are making leisure trips unconnected with school journeys — and these leisure trips are in the evenings and afternoons.

The elderly would also be big gainers because many are afraid of going out after dark. Crime would also fall because burglaries and muggings are far more common in the evenings than before dawn. The business community strongly supports a time change because it would facilitate dealings with Europe and the Far East.

Against all these clear beneficiaries, there allegedly stand groups of farmers and Scots. Their supposed opposition is by no means clear. Opinion polls in Scotland have consistently shown majorities in favour of daylight savings, albeit smaller majorities than in England and Wales. Scotland would gain economically even more than England, since the very early sunsets there cause greater losses in the proportionately more important tourist trade. The assumed opposition of farmers is also unproven. Farmers can be more flexible about the time they start their jobs than office or factory workers. They can therefore more readily adapt their schedules to the daylight hours.

Whether or not the arguments for change are accepted, this is an issue that directly affects the life of every citizen of Britain, an issue on which the public needs more information and one on which there is room for reasonable people to settle disagreements through rational debate. In short, it is an ideal issue for a free vote on a Private Member's Bill after a full debate. Yet the Government seems determined to stop this because it fears the response of a few thousand Scottish farmers whom it has not taken the trouble to consult — and who will probably vote against the Tories anyway.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Single currency 'not a pipe dream'

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for South Derbyshire (Conservative)

Sir, As a good Tory I believe in the virtues of sound finance and a strong currency. It is all the more disappointing, therefore, to read such as John Redwood ("We deserve better from France", December 12) sneering at the French in their current difficulties, and disparaging the proposed European single currency.

The Gaullist administration in Paris deserves our full support. After years of running their affairs on subsidies and deficits, their determination to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria has at last put economic reality on to their agenda.

Under the Maastricht rules a government can still spend what it likes and tax as much or as little as it wishes. What it cannot do is run up huge deficits, to be financed by printing money. This restriction seems to me wholly beneficial. One can, however, understand why British politicians, with their long-standing penchant for inflation, should be worried.

As for the single currency, its main effect will be to stop governments fiddling with their exchange rate. Since the war we British have seen the value of our currency go steadily but one way — downwards. Governments of all parties have used devaluation as an instrument of policy. The Conservatives do it marginally more slowly. Since 1979 sterling's value has fallen by half from over 4 DM to the pound, whereas in the previous 16 years it fell by two thirds: hardly a record to be proud of.

Such policies beggar our people and devalue their hard work. The impact on our standing in the world — let alone the persistently high interest rates our businesses face — is wholly negative.

The single currency cannot be dismissed as a pipe dream. Ten countries are still members of the exchange-rate mechanism — a majority of our partners. The main problem will not be whether enough countries are able and willing to join, but whether, in the last resort, the stronger nations such as Germany will be willing to take the weaker ones such as Britain on board.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE
(Chairman,
The Conservative group for Europe),
House of Commons.
December 13.

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative), and others

Sir, We wish the Prime Minister and his colleagues all success in achieving the maximum returns for Britain's true interests at the EU summit in Madrid. We believe that these interests coincide with the whole Union's principal interests, as they unfold with the Maastricht treaty sequel and the inter-governmental conference next year.

Most patriotic citizens perceive that we do not need to stand aloof from these events. This country can surely best flourish when working very closely with our friends and allies in the EU.

Above all, we urge the Government to maintain a positive position in all the forthcoming plans for the single currency. The existing reserves position provides ample balance, if it be needed, to take the final decision in due course. In the meantime it is perfectly logical, within this framework, to pursue the eventual goal of the Euro-currency system, as Britain has so far done in the working groups.

Much time has been lost because the Government has all too often avoided putting over the powerful case for EMU to the public, which remains understandably apprehensive. Instead we need now to launch a full national discussion with courage and enthusiasm.

Yours etc,
HUGH DYKES,
ROBERT HICKS,
DAVID KNOX,
JIM LESTER,
TIM RATHBONE
House of Commons.
December 14.

From Mr J. O. Armstrong

Sir, It is farcical for John Redwood to write that we cannot adopt the single currency because all the shop tills and vending machines would have to be modified: proof at last that the British really are, as Napoleon called us, a nation of shopkeepers.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. ARMSTRONG,
Thomas de Pype's Mill,
Stoneleigh,
Nr Coventry, Warwickshire.
December 13.

Access to the law

From Mr James Turner

Sir, If the assertion of copyright in statutory material means that the law is not freely available to all (letters, December 6, 8, 13), is there any justification for continued application of the principle that ignorance of the law is no defence?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES TURNER,
1 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.
December 13.

The lessons to be learnt from a headteacher's murder

From Mr Walter Cairns

Sir, I have no quarrel with William Rees-Mogg ("The headmaster's lesson for us all", December 11) when he decries the kind of moral relativism which fails to distinguish right from wrong, particularly in the case of the sad death of Philip Lawrence (letters, December 11, 12).

No amount of social deprivation can justify or excuse crimes of such vileness. However, the question to which we must now address ourselves is how we prevent such tragedies from recurring. On this issue, I suspect, Lord Rees-Mogg and I would part company.

It is one thing to excuse crime on the basis of social and economic circumstances, quite another to examine dispassionately the conditions in which this type of evil flourishes and take appropriate action. Prevention is always better than cure and need not sacrifice any intrinsic moral values. The links between crime and the social ills of poverty and unemployment have been too well documented, and confirmed by too many chief constables, to be ignored by our policy-makers.

The plain fact is that the vast majority of people who are provided with satisfactory employment, decent housing and a clean environment have too much to lose by turning to crime. In those inner-city areas where only a small minority have access to all these facilities, a life of crime will always appear more attractive to a minority of their inhabitants.

Until this lesson is learnt I very much fear there will be more tragedies such as the one which shocked the nation last week.

Yours sincerely,
WALTER CAIRNS,
Broomhurst Hall,
836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester 20.
December 11.

From Mr Geoffrey Noël

Sir, Hardly any measures exist to deter criminals from carrying and using knives. In June I wrote to the Home Secretary expressing concern. I pointed out that the majority who are charged with possessing an offensive weapon elect jury trial and that convictions are few.

A charge, under Section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, of unjustifiably carrying a knife with a blade exceeding 3in carries only a fine or less.

A solution is to make the charge of carrying offensive weapons triable only in a magistrates' court and to enlarge Section 139 to include imprisonment. This would not necessarily mean a surge in the prison population; it would be enough that the threat existed.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY NOËL
(Metropolitan stipendiary
magistrate, 1975-93),
c/o 1 Garden Court, Temple, EC4.
December 12.

From Mrs Joan Woods

Sir, On December 11 you reported that "teachers' leaders will today meet Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to discuss school discipline, and David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday that teachers might have to think twice about 'playing the hero' ".

I find this remark singularly inappropriate from someone in Mr Hart's position, particularly in relation to a teacher so dedicated that he did *not* stop "to think twice" before risking, and losing, his life to save a pupil from a murderer. Nor was he "playing".

The bravery of Philip Lawrence, the reaction of his wife and family and of the pupils of St George's School, have inspired and humbled all except, apparently, Mr Hart. He has made it an occasion for a cheap remark which does little credit to the hierarchy of a profession which Philip Lawrence and his family have raised to unaccustomed levels of respect.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN WOODS,
8 East Street, Lewes, East Sussex.
December 13.

From Mr Nigel Gee

Sir, I have for some years been a member, in a voluntary capacity, of the Executive Committee of World ORT (the Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training) which, as the world's largest independent vocational training organisation, gives a more secure future every year to 250,000 young people around the world through training programmes.

I believe the Government should demonstrate its responsibility to the future of young people in this country by guaranteeing that every person under 22 years of age is in full employment, full-time education or full-time vocational training. Any group of young people roaming the streets could then justifiably be questioned and returned to their proper place of work.

The cost of instilling motivation and a sense of responsibility to new generations of young people is far cheaper than paying the current price of crime, unemployment and lives of desolation.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL GEE,
48 Pont Street, SW1.
December 13.

From the Master of the Armourers & Brasiers' Company

Sir, Increasing numbers of serious knife attacks on individuals are exposing to particular danger police officers, prison wardens, ambulance drivers and schoolteachers. Unfortunately, government funds for research into protective clothing are strictly limited, and what money is available is largely being donated to research into protection against bullets.

Knife attack requires different forms of protective clothing and, in order to get research under way, our company has agreed to provide the "missing" money to fund a three-year programme at Cranfield University. We hope the result will be a new jacket which will give a high level of protection from attack whilst still being comfortable to wear.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. HONNYWILL,
Master,
Armourers & Brasiers' Company,
Armourers' Hall,
81 Coleman Street, EC2.

From Canon Basil Jones

Sir, I hope that the tragic death of the headmaster of a Kilburn school will mean that every youth club and young people's organisation will have a waiting list of suitable adults of every class and race ready to be prepared for leadership.

The need is now and it is urgent.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL JONES,
17 Lochnell Road, Northchurch,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
December 11.

Assessing risks of BSE

From Dr J. B. Timmis and Mrs S. P. Timmis

Sir, We are sure that by now most people are aware that CJD is an extremely rare disease; and it was reassuring to read Professor A. R. Michell's letter (December 11) confirming this. However, with such a long incubation period, we cannot possibly be certain that this low mortality rate will remain constant.

If, in 30-40 years' time, CJD were to become as common a cause of death as Alzheimer's (or even falling out of bed), and if it were to be shown in the future that there was indeed a link between BSE and CJD, our grandchildren would surely wonder why more wasn't done to protect them when our suspicions were first aroused in the Eighties.

If on the other hand the incidence of CJD remains steady, and a link is not established, perhaps they will look kindly upon us for being sensible enough to take precautions on their behalf at a time when the answers were not fully known.

Yours sincerely,
B. TIMMIS,
S. TIMMIS,
12 Ringwood Avenue, N2.
December 11.

From Dr R. N. W. Ellis

Sir, As a veterinarian I fully support Professor Michell's views. The usual government spokespersons seem not to have noticed that the odds of a million to one have altered in the public's perception to being more likely to happen, on the spurious grounds that at least one winner at even greater odds turns up every Saturday. It appears therefore to happen frequently.

As any fule kno who has held on to Premium Bonds for yonks without a winner, it is still one hell of a long shot at odds of over a million to one.

So I still eat beef.

Yours faithfully,
R. N. W. ELLIS,
The Old Vicarage, Beulah,
Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys.

From Miss R. L. Wright

Sir, Grass staggers (Mr P. H. Coulthurst's letter, December 7), or hypomagnesaemia, is a condition in cattle and sheep caused by a deficiency of magnesium. This causes staggering and reeling symptoms. In its acute form the condition can be swiftly fatal.

In areas where the level of magnesium may be inadequate, staggers can be prevented by supplementing the feed with magnesium powder. This condition is well known with vets and farmers. It is not a disease of the brain and it is not a form of BSE.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL WRIGHT,
The Cottage,
56 New Town,
Toddington, Gloucestershire.
December 10.

From Major H. J. D. Gunn

Sir, Mr Coulthurst would find that Lieutenant-General Sir F. Fitzwygram wrote an informed chapter on mad or sleepy staggers in *Horses and Stables*, third edition, 1883.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. D. GUNN,
The Manor House,
Didmarton, Badminton, Avon.
December 7.

From Mrs Fabienne Smith

Sir, I have always thought Dr Helen Grant's stance on a possible BSE/CJD link the wisest and most responsible one. But I must challenge her statement (letter, December 7) that sheeps' brains were "never traditionally removed to be added to human food". They were.

Mrs Beeton gave recipes for sheeps' brains sauce and sheeps' brains as a dish. Scottish cooking has always included sheep's head and sheep's head broth. My mother (born 1889) loved sheeps' brain on toast, and I occasionally ate them myself as a child.

Yours sincerely,
FABIENNE SMITH,
55 Manor Place, Edinburgh.
December 7.

Greenpeace costs

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, In a report on December 7 ("Protesters reluctant to tap into reserves") you allege that Greenpeace "has recently become the focus of public criticism" about what you describe as a "lavish" annual general meeting in Tunisia. This "criticism" has only been voiced once since the AGM in Tunisia — which in fact took place in November 1994 — by journalists writing in *The Sunday Times* on October 22.

The 1994 AGM was not lavish. It was held in Tunisia to mark the opening of the first Greenpeace office in Africa, to allow Greenpeace staff from all over the world to learn more about the conditions in which our newest office was operating; and as it was held out of season its cost was a good deal less than if it had been held in areas such as northern Europe.

The same report suggested that Greenpeace was unwilling to invest international reserves to renew our fleet. Wrong again. We are currently refitting a new, ice-capable ship for our own use, at a cost of $2.8 million.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas, N1.
December 11.

Business letters, page 25

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Sport on TV

From Mr Tim de Ferrars

Sir, Now that the BBC has been relieved of the cost of covering Formula One motor racing (report, December 14) in addition to the FA Cup Final, various Test cricket competitions, etc, will I see a reduction in my licence fee?

Yours sincerely,
TIM de FERRARS,
18 Mount Pleasant Road,
Caterham, Surrey.
December 14.

A loser's victory

From Captain Omar Malik

Sir, Might not some form of award be initiated for those who set a national example in polite behaviour?

I have in mind the captain of the Oxford University rugby team, Tyrone Howe. He was seen yesterday, having suffered a last-minute defeat, warmly shaking the hands of the Cambridge team and congratulating them with a smile. What a marvellous example to millions of television viewers.

In the opinion of a partisan Cambridge supporter, the victory yesterday was not to Cambridge but to sportsmanship. Well done, Oxford's captain.

Yours politely,
OMAR MALIK,
Royal Air Force Club,
128 Piccadilly, W1.
December 13.

Sports letters, page 36

Bird trained

From Mrs Ruth Wadley

Sir, The brain specialisation scientists have identified in chickens (report, September 9; letter, December 12) is surely no more than the selective hearing in humans which, as all wives and mothers know, enables men to hear the sports commentary perfectly in one ear but be completely deaf in the other.

Yours etc,
RUTH WADLEY,
Wood Bar Cottage,
Cliffords Mesne,
Newent, Gloucestershire.

Caring by numbers

From Mr J. A. E. Gorst

Sir, I have never felt so cherished as I did this morning when I received from my motor insurers a letter which contained the following sentence:

"As part of our switch over to a more personal level of service, your policy number has changed from MC-92127131-8 to DU06X143113".

Yours faithfully,
J. A. E. GORST,
Marsh Court Farm,
Stockbridge, Hampshire.
December 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 14: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience of Her Majesty and presented an Address from the House of Lords to which The Queen was graciously pleased to make reply.

The President of Ukraine and Mrs Kuchma visited Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh today opened the new Headquarters of Rotortech Limited at Howe Moss Drive, Aberdeen Airport.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 14: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Pegasus Project, this evening held a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 14: The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victim Support Schemes, this morning attended the meeting of the Advisory Board at Church House, Westminster, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE - the National Deaf-blind and Rubella Association, this afternoon visited the Ealing Family Centre, London W13.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 14: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning held a discussion at St James's Palace with Members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the European Parliament who have been to look at the work of the trusts.

His Royal Highness this afternoon received the Rt Hon William Hague MP (Secretary of State for Wales).

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 14: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present this evening at a Gala Performance of the 1995 Olympia International Showjumping Championships, in aid of the British Equestrian Olympic Fund, in the Grand Hall, Olympia.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 14: The Duke of Gloucester, President, the Institute of Advanced Motorists, attended a Luncheon to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Institute, at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Forbes House, Halkin Street, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 14: The Duke of Kent, President, this afternoon attended a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, London SW1.

His Royal Highness, President, the Engineering Council, this evening attended a farewell dinner for the outgoing Chairman, Sir John Fairclough, at Boodle's, St James's Street, London SW1.

The Duchess of Kent, President, today presided at the Congregation of Awards Ceremony, the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Greater Manchester.

Dinners

Fan Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, received a cheque for his appeal, St John Ambulance Brigade, from Mr Julian Crispin, Master of the Fan Makers' Company, at a dinner held last night at the Mansion House. The Chairman of Lloyd's and Mr Nicholas Crispin also spoke.

Royal Aeronautical Society
Sir Colin Marshall, Chairman of British Airways, delivered the annual Royal Aeronautical Society's Wilbur and Orville Wright lecture to the society last night at 4 Hamilton Place. At the annual dinner held afterwards Mr Brian Rowe, Chairman Emeritus of GE Aircraft Engines, was the guest of honour. Sir Donald Spiers, president of the society, was the host. Earlier the society's medals and awards for 1995 were presented to the following:

Honorary Fellowships: Mr Charles Kaman, Mr Roy McNulty and Professor John Stollery.
Honorary Companionship: Air Marshal M Nur Khan.
Society Gold Medal: Professor David Gardner.
British Gold Medal: Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock.
Society Silver Medal: Mr Brian Main.
British Silver Medals: Mr John Larroucau and Mr Michael Spencer.
Society Bronze Medals: Mr Ian MacDiarmid and Mr John Perry.
British Bronze Medals: Mr Andrew Cowley and Professor Clive Leyman.
Wakefield Gold Medal: Mr Kenneth Smart.
Flight Simulation Silver Medal: Mr Stuart Anderson.
Peter Allard Silver Medal: Mr Christopher West.
RP Alston Medal: Mr John Lewis.
Alan Marsh Medal: Mr Colin Hague
N E Rowe Medal (23-27 age group): Mr Benoit Massal.
Aeronautical Challenge Shield: Mr Francis Aish, Mr Andrew Fonseca and Mr David Gibbs (Southampton University).
Alan Marsh Award: Mr Andrew Handcock.
Pardoe Space Award: Dr Robert Rowntree.
Sir Roy Fedden Award: Mr David Lees and Mr Ronald Gaffney.
Silver Turnbuckle Award: Mr Alan Nash.
Sir Robert Hardingham Presidential Sword: Air Vice-Marshal Bill Belton.

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd-Edwards, the Recorder of the City of Cardiff, His Honour Judge Michael Gibbon and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor G. Tatham, were present at the inaugural Sir Cennydd Traherne Memorial Lecture and Dinner at the City Hall, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was Sir Tasker Watkins. Mr Brian K. Thomas, Chairman of the Cardiff Business Club, presided.

Jonathan Goldberg, QC
Mr Jonathan Goldberg, QC, gave a Dinner at Middle Temple on December 13, to thank and honour Mr Michael Sherrard, QC (Master Treasurer), Mr Jeremy Roberts, QC, Mr Ron Thwaites, QC, and Mr Timothy Kendal. The guests included:

Lord and Lady Clinton-Davis, Judge Pownall, QC, Judge Hyam, Gilbert Gray, QC, David Bate, QC, Mr Frederick Forsyth, Mr John Eisenhammer, Rabbi David Goldberg, Professor Bernard Segal, other barristers and family and friends.

Birthdays today

Mr David Abell, chairman and chief executive, Suter, 53; Mrs Valerie Aggett, former Principal, Holborn Law College, 45; Mr Michael Bogdanov, theatre director, 57; Mr Clive Brittain, racehorse trainer, 62; the Earl of Buckinghamshire, 51; Dr S.A. Checkley, psychiatrist, 50; Lord Croham, 78; Sir Graham Dorey, Bailiff of Guernsey, 63; Air Marshal Sir John Fitzpatrick, 66; Miss Ida Haendel, violinist, 71; Mr Gunnar Hägglöf, Swedish diplomat, 91; Sir Henry Hardman, civil servant, 90; Mr Oliver Heald, MP, 41; Mr Kevin Hughes, MP, 43; Mr Don Johnson, actor, 46; Mr Joe Jordan, football manager, 44; General Sir Frank Kitson, 69; Miss Henrietta Knight, racehorse trainer, 49; Deaconess Dr Una Kroll, writer and broadcaster, 70; Mr David McMurray, Headmaster, Oundle School, 58; Mr Oscar Niemeyer, architect, 88; Miss Edna O'Brien, writer, 59; Mr Brian Roper, Vice-Chancellor and chief executive, University of North London, 46; Commandant Anne Spencer, former director, WRNS, 57; Professor Sir John Meurig Thomas, Master, Peterhouse, Cambridge, 63; Professor M.H.F. Wilkins, biophysicist, 79.

FIONA HANSON

Two polar adventurers, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Robert Swan, each received awards from the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Sir Ranulph, 51, left, is the first person to receive a Polar Medal for his exploration of the Arctic and Antarctic for a second time. In 1984 he was awarded the Polar Medal. Yesterday he received a Bar for the medal. Mr Swan, who walked to the South Pole in 1989 and to the North Pole three years later, received the insignia of the OBE

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will attend a dinner at St James's Palace at 7.15.

Receptions

Portuguese Ambassador
At a reception at the Portuguese Ambassador's residence on Wednesday the Ambassador presented the Teixeira-Gomes Translation Prize to Professor Giovanni Pontiero for his translation of *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* by José Saramago, published by the Harvill Press.

Intellectual Property Lawyers' Organisation
Mr Justice Jacob and Mr Justice Laddie were the guest speaker at the inaugural reception of TIPLO held on Tuesday at Lincoln's Inn. Mr Hugh Brett and Mr Tony Willoughby also spoke.

Pattenmakers' Company

The Rev Andrew Pearson officiated at a carol service of the Pattenmakers' Company held yesterday at the Guild Church of St Margaret Pattens, Eastcheap. Mr A.D. Miller, Master, presided at a reception held afterwards at Watermen's Hall and made a donation to Mr A.J. Chakrabarti towards a study of the development of foot deformities and their effect on knee symptoms.

Appointments

Mr Doug McAdam to be Ambassador to Kazakhstan from March 1996, in succession to the late Mr Noel Jones.

Mr John Doble to be High Commissioner to Swaziland from February 1996 in succession to Mr Richard Gozney who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Britannia Royal Naval College

Rear-Admiral J.P. Clarke, Flag Officer Training and Recruiting, took the salute at a Passing Out Parade held yesterday at Britannia Royal Naval College. The following officers passed out:

Direct Graduate Entry (Seamen):
Sub-Lieutenants A Beesting, T F Byrne, D N Chawira, J M Clark, S Field, C E Greetham, S F Groves, S S Habgood, M A J Moules, C Raeburn, J P Sheldrake, K M Walsh, A Welsh.

Direct Graduate Entry (Supply):
Sub-Lieutenants J F Bagworth, N A Gulzar, R P Harris, S J Pring.

Naval College Entry (Seamen): Midshipmen M J Aldridge, N J Duncan, S Tighe.

Naval College Entry (Supply):
Midshipmen M B Cox, A M Gibbs.

Naval College Entry (Engineers):
Midshipmen P D Chambers, J Chilton, M T Goodship, L B Harrington, M A Harrison, S P Mealing, M J McCoy, P J Pipkin, N M Sargent.

Direct Graduate Entry 80 Flight (Pilot):
Sub-Lieutenants G R Jones, E J Powell, S W Vorley.

Direct Graduate Entry 80 Flight (Observers):
Sub-Lieutenant T S Hutchins.

Naval College Entry 80 Flight (Pilot):
Midshipman D H Thomas.

Naval College Entry 80 Flight Air Traffic Controller:
Midshipman J R Rawles.

Direct Graduate Entry 82 Flight (Pilot):
Sub-Lieutenants R L Bradley, M A M Campbell, C L Donegan, T W Hayden, S A Hindmarch, J W R Rogers, R J Smith, S R Straughan, D S Thom, A C Whitlum.

Direct Graduate Entry 82 Flight (Observer):
Sub-Lieutenants A J Hill, N D Roberts, J C E White.

Direct Graduate Entry 82 Flight (Air Traffic Controller):
Sub-Lieutenants P E Dennis, M Dingwall.

Naval College Entry 82 Flight (Pilot):
Midshipmen S H Alsop, S Doubleday, M R Nelson.

Naval College Entry 82 Flight (Air Traffic Controller):
Midshipmen E J Clements, N V Krykunivsky.

Special Duties Officers, Course 61:
Sub-Lieutenants R G Beard, S B Egerton, M A Jones, A J Martin, W D Routledge, M D Singleton, R E Smith, D J South, D J Thomas.

Internationals:
Midshipmen Ahmed Suleman Al-Mamari, Ali Adam Al-Maimani, Ali Suleman Al-Rawahi, S L Edgecombe, F D Gittens, S A Harmon, Khalid Al-Moqbali, Khalid Saeed O Al Hajri, Khamis Ali Al-Sulaitni, Mohammed Ali Al-Wahaibi, M Powell, Saleh M Al Mansouri, K A Smith, Sultan Rashid Al Naimi.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Nero, 5th Roman Emperor AD54-68, Antium (Anzio), AD 37; George Romney, portrait painter, Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire, 1734; Charles Cowden Clarke, critic, Enfield, Middlesex, 1787; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, builder of the tower bearing his name, Dijon, 1832; Niels Finsen, physician, Nobel laureate 1903, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 1860; Josef Hoffmann, architect, Pirnitz, Czechoslovakia, 1870; Maxwell Anderson, dramatist, Atlantic, Pennsylvania, 1888.

DEATHS: Jan Vermeer, painter, Delft, 1675; Isaac Walton, the "Father of Angling", Winchester, 1683; George Hickes, theologian, 1715; Benjamin Stillingfleet, naturalist, London, 1771; Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, politician and man of science, Chevening, 1816; Georg Friedrich Grotefend, scholar, Frankfurt, 1853; Sir George Cayley, pioneer of aerodynamics, Scarborough, 1857; Sitting Bull, chief of the Sioux, on Grand River, South Dakota, 1890; Gregory Rasputin, monk, favourite at the Russian court, murdered, St Petersburg, 1916; Wolfgang Pauli, physicist, Nobel laureate 1945, Zurich, 1958; Charles Laughton, actor, Hollywood, 1962; Walt Disney, animated cartoonist and film producer, Los Angeles, 1966.

The remains of Napoleon Bonaparte were deposited in Les Invalides, Paris, 1840.

Nylon yarn was first produced commercially, Delaware, 1939.

The Canadian Parliament adopted the maple leaf as the official symbol for the national flag, 1964.

Legal appointments

Circuit Judges
Mr Timothy Gordon Pontius to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Mr George Anthony Ensor to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Northern Circuit.

Marriages

**Mr J.H. de Jong
and SAR Princesse Maria Thereza d'Orléans Bragance**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 4, 1995, at the Church of the Imperial Irmandade de Nossa Senhora da Glória do Outeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, of Mr Johannes Hessel de Jong, son of Mr and Mrs Cornelis J. de Jong, of Chelsea, to SAR Princesse Maria Thereza d'Orléans Bragance, daughter of LLAAIIRR the late Le Prince Pedro Henrique d'Orléans Bragance and of La Princesse Pedro Henrique d'Orléans Bragance, born SAR Princesse de Bavière.

Father Dom José Vaz, Bishop of Rio de Janeiro, officiated.

**Mr M.H.J. Blackburn
and Miss C.J. Faulkner**
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 9, in Romsey Abbey, between Mr Mark Blackburn, elder son of Mr and Mrs Roger Blackburn, of Oxford, and Miss Carey Faulkner, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Faulkner, of Romsey.

**Mr J. Navani
and Miss B. Shahani**
The marriage took place at Fulham Register Office yesterday, of Mr John Navani, son of Ratna and Kishin Navani, of Fulham, SW6, to Miss Bina Shahani, daughter of Raj Kumari and Prem Kevalram Shahani, of Karachi (presently at Bayswater, W2 and Belgravia, SW1). A religious ceremony took place at Holy Sindhi Mandir (Temple), 110 Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, Middlesex in the evening. There will also be a service at St Matthews', Bayswater, on Saturday, December 16, 1995 at 10.30am. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

**Mr G.W.A. Neel
and Mrs M.A. Nairn Milliken**
The marriage took place on Friday, November 24, in Knightsbridge, of Alexander Neel, son of the late Mr Edric Neel and of Mrs Mary Neel, of Hampstead, to Martha Nairn Milliken, daughter of the late Robert Frank Nairn, of Castle Carey, Guernsey, and of Mrs Mary Anna Nairn, of Boston, Massachusetts.

The bride was attended by Eliza Milliken. Mr Mathew Neel was best man.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of the President of Ukraine.

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)
Sir Brian Goswell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK), presided at the Christmas luncheon held yesterday at Grosvenor House in support of the Fulbright Commission. Mr James Moore, executive director of the commission, also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr D.R. Barker
and Miss A.V.M. Jones-Perrott**
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Barker, of Longstock, Hampshire, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones-Perrott, of Llansantffraid, Powys.

**Captain A.M. Bather
and Miss E.E. Thompson**
The engagement is announced between Captain Alexander Maclean Bather, The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish), son of Mr and Mrs Colin Maclean Bather, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Thompson, of Cottered, Hertfordshire.

**Mr G.C. Desmond
and Miss J.A. Phillips**
The engagement is announced between Gareth, son of Mr and Mrs J. Desmond, of Londonderry, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W. Phillips, of The Wombourne Wodehouse, Staffordshire.

**Captain J.S. McEuen
and Miss K.J. Lawson-Dick**
The engagement is announced between Captain James McEuen, Scots Guards, son of Mr Duncan McEuen, of Kensington, and of Mrs Karen Crocker, of Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Lawson-Dick, of Owston, Leicestershire.

**Mr D.R. Morris-Marsham
and Miss V.M. Inglis**
The engagement is announced between Dominic, younger son of Mr Jack Morris-Marsham, of Ewen, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Robert Worlidge, of Bath, and Veronica, younger daughter of Mrs Kit Inglis and the late Major C.R.C. Inglis, of Brecon.

**Mr T.I. Regan
and Miss S.L. Roe**
The engagement is announced between Tim, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Regan, of Dorking, Surrey, and Samantha, daughter of Mr Derek Roe, of San Francisco, California, and Mrs Judy Roe, of Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire.

**Mr J.M.W. Tearle
and Mlle A.I.E. Robbe-Grillet**
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Tearle, of Padbury, Buckingham, and Alice, daughter of M and Mme P. Robbe-Grillet, of Paris.

**Mr A.B. Totton
and Mlle L.M. Castaing**
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Totton, of Ubbeston, Suffolk, and Lauriane, daughter of M. Michel Castaing, of Paris, and Mme Marie Blanchet, of Chateauroux, France.

**Mr J.C. Wilson
and Miss S. Graham**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wilson, of Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr Colin Graham, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Mrs Jean Graham, of Wimborne, Dorset.

Medieval magazine fills a wide gap

MEDIEVAL studies have often been seen as the poor cousin in our past, lacking the immediacy and detail of modern history and the bold clarity of the Roman world (Norman Hammond writes). Yet the period between AD 500 and 1500 saw the birth of the English nation, as well as the wider impact of Islam, the Mongol invasion, and the Black Death on Europe.

Although specialist journals such as *Medieval Archaeology* have long flourished in this field, there has been a dearth of more general-interest magazines. Now, with the appearance of *Medieval Life*, there is something to fill that millennial gap.

"Our field of reference is the period between the collapse of the western Roman Empire and the Renaissance. We aim to present the Middle Ages from a multi-disciplinary standpoint," Chris Pickles, the editor of *Medieval Life*, said. The magazine is independently financed and produced, but has the backing of the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York.

The first two issues of this "new magazine for the Middle Ages" include articles on "ethnic identity and the origins of medieval Europe", a topic with all too many contemporary resonances, the MacSorley sea-kings of the Western Isles, and Liverpool's surprising store of medieval treasures.

"It is our ambition to build a bridge between the researcher and the general reader by publishing images and ideas not readily accessible elsewhere, and by encouraging debate," Mr Pickles said.

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Tyrants lose their strength and are brought low in the grip of misfortune and sorrow: he brings princes into contempt and leaves them to wander in a trackless waste.
Psalm 107 : 39. 40 (REB)

BIRTHS

AUERBACK/BILLOT - On 8th December at The Portland Hospital, to Nicolette Billot and Marshall Auerback, a beautiful son, Nicholas Oscar Billot, a brother for James.

BARTON - On December 11th 1995 at The Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast, to Ian and June, a son, Peter David, a brother for Karyn.

BERRILL - On December 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Carolyn and Nick, a daughter, Charlotte Sophie, a sister for Edward and William.

DAVID - On December 11th at Wellington Hospital, to Sherry and Mark, a daughter, Nancy Jane Tucker, a sister for Gus and Georgia.

GARBACZ - On 8th December at Wellington Hospital, to David and Evelynne, a baby girl, Natasha Sophia.

KIRKBY-VALLELY - On 13th December, at Beverley Westwood Hospital, East Yorkshire, to Victoria and Gerrard, a daughter, Georgina Tamsin.

MACKENZIE - On 27th November 1995, at Morningside Medi Clinic, Johannesburg, to Megan (née Jones) and John, a son, Angus Ian, a brother for Georgina and Elizabeth. All well.

OKONKWO - On December 7th at Wellington Hospital, to Vivian (née Ezenwafor) and Godwin, a boy, Emeka Kingsley, a brother to Ebuka and Ekene.

WELLS - On 7th December, in Cape Town, to Sally (née Carr) and Richard, a daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth.

DEATHS

ALDEN - Christopher Kenneth. After bravely fighting with his recent illness Chris died unexpectedly on Tuesday 12th December. He battled to the end with enormous courage and dignity. Wendy, Caroline and Jo are devastated by their loss. Funeral to be held 12 noon Thursday 21st December at Randalls Park Crematorium, Randalls Road, Leatherhead. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Chris gratefully received by the Cancer Treatment and Research Trust c/o Professor E. Newlands, Medical Oncology, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF.

BROOKE - Harold. Playwright. Peacefully on 13th December. Late of Babergh Hall, Suffolk. Adoring husband of his late wife, Kay, and greatly missed by daughter Vicky. Private Cremation.

CLOUGH - Pauline peacefully at Southampton after a short illness on 13th December 1995. Requiem Mass at 10am on Thursday 21st December at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh, Hants. Flowers or donations if desired to the National Society for Cancer Relief c/o J. Lawrence & Sons Undertakers, 17 St Denys Road, Portswood, Southampton, SO17 2GN.

COCKSHOTT - Angela Margaret (née Haldane) died peacefully at home on 13th December 1995. Dearly loved and loving wife of David, and mother of Camilla and Richard. Funeral Service at 11 am on Wednesday 20th December at Maidford Parish Church. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Cancer Research.

CRITCHLEY - On December 13th 1995 peacefully at Wolfeton Manor Residential Home, Charminster, Dorchester, Dorothy Sinclair, formerly of Buckland Newton, aged 85 years. Much loved by family and friends. Funeral Service at Yeovil Crematorium on Tuesday December 19th at 2pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Grassby F.S., Dorchester, tel: (01305) 262538.

EVANS - Colin on December 13th peacefully at home in Durban, South Africa. Loving husband of Val, father of Derryn, Lyndsay, Peter, Karen, Martin and Gregg and grandfather of many. Private funeral held.

EWING - On December 13th 1995 peacefully Sydney Ewing aged 101, beloved mother of John Townsend and the late Bryan. She has bequeathed her body for medical research. Her valiant spirit is at rest.

FIELD - Ruth Olive (née Prescott) passed away peacefully on December 7th, 1995 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Predeceased by her loving husband George in 1991. Survived by her son, Jim Peck (Louise) and sister Aileen Brandle of Devonshire, England. She will be sadly missed by her many dear friends. Ruth was born in London, England and served in the British Air Force during World War II. She emigrated to Canada in 1946 and was a member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club for over 40 years. 8 Bells Service at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on Monday, December 18th, at 1.30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Society would be much appreciated by the family.

GRAHAM - Michael. Beloved son of Marjorie and Anthony, dearly loved brother of Robert, Suzanne and Charlotte. Died suddenly and peacefully at Newton Dee Village, Bieldside, Aberdeen on December 4th. Cremation took place on December 8th at Aberdeen.

HADDINGTON - Sarah, Countess of, peacefully on 14th December, beloved wife of George, late Earl of Haddington, greatly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of the Waves, Dunbar, at 12 noon on Monday December 18th.

KINGDON - On December 13th, Oliver Wissler Kingdon O.B.E. D.F.C. M.A., devoted husband of Joan, much loved father of Susan, Richard and William and proud grandfather of Emily, Peter, Jessica and Emma. Funeral at 12 noon Wednesday 20th December at St Judes Church, Nottingham, to be followed by a reception in the church hall to celebrate his distinguished life. Everyone is invited to attend both service and celebration. Flowers may be sent to Bagguley Brothers, Mansfield Road, Nottingham (cut flowers preferred).

LANE - Peacefully at Ridgeway Manor, Oxted, Surrey, Breta Margaret Lane (née Robertson), 91, formerly of Lincoln, Persia, Kenley and Oxted. Widow of H.W. (Bill) Lane and greatly loved mother of Patrick, Jennifer, Bill and Roger. Service at St Peter's Church, Tandridge, Oxted, 11 o'clock Monday 18th December, then Worth Crematorium, Crawley. Family flowers only. Donations to the NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS or to the RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1. After a long life she finally goes to rest with her beloved husband Bill in Davos.

LAUDER - On 11th December 1995, peacefully in hospital, Ian Hogh, adored husband of Fiona (widow of Alastair Adams-Cairns), father of Craig and Gail, stepfather of Gillie, Iain and Ruaraidh. Cremation private.

LAWS - Peter, suddenly on 13th December, in hospital, aged 78 years. Widow of Stella Laws and father of Ursula. Sadly missed. Funeral Service on Tuesday 19th December at 2 pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Penzance, followed by burial in Penzance Cemetery. Enquiries and flowers to H.N. Peake Funeral Directors, tel: (01736) 62781.

MILLAIS - Everett Gordon Raoul, on December 10th after a long illness courageously fought. Private cremation. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, Hampstead NW3 2PN. (0171) 794-3535.

NIGHTINGALE - William Denis OBE. Born 2nd April 1913. Much loved father of Margery, John, Michael and Dorothy. Husband of the late Wendy Nightingale. Died peacefully after a long illness, on December 6th. Funeral Service at All Saints' Church, Hampton, Monday December 18th at 11.45 am. Flowers and enquiries to F.W. Paine, Hampton Hill, (0181) 977-1205.

PARHAM - On December 12th 1995, in her 98th year, peacefully after a short illness, Barbara, widow of Major-General Jack Parham, a much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Nicholas', Hintlesham, Ipswich on Tuesday December 19th at 12 noon. Flowers, or if preferred, donations payable to Hintlesham and Chattisham Parochial Church Council, c/o Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 650 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW.

PELMORE - Margaret Elena on 9th December 1995 after a tragic accident. Family cremation and, later, Thanksgiving Service at St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere, on Saturday 27th January 1996 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

PRESCOT - Henry Kelsall D.Phil., peacefully on 14th December 1995 in his 98th year. Funeral at King's Pyon Church at 12 noon Wednesday 20th December. Family flowers only. Memorial Service at Eton to be announced later.

PULLEY - On 13th December at home, Eleanor Frances (née Crosse). Greatly loved by her husband Charles, her son Timothy Day, her grandchildren and all her family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Cheltenham Crematorium on Tuesday 19th December at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to The Cobalt Unit Appeal Fund c/o Sellim Smith & Co., 74 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham, tel: (01242) 525385.

RENSON - On December 12th 1995, of Heald Green, Cheshire, Brenda, dearly loved wife of the late Peter Renson, very dear mother of Vanessa, loving grandmother of Penny, loved daughter of Violet and dear sister of Valerie. Service and interment at Wilmslow Cemetery on Tuesday, December 19th, at 2.30 pm. Enquiries to Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd. Tel: (0161) 428-2097.

RICKETT - Peacefully on December 14th at Nazareth House, Hammersmith, Father Bernard Rickett A.A. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green, London E2, on Wednesday 20th December at 12 noon.

RITCHIE - On 10th December, in hospital in Manchester, Piers Alastair, aged 40, very dearly loved son of George and Anne, brother and brother-in-law of Jo and Ron and uncle of Vicki and Matthew. He died of AIDS, a long illness which he bore most valiantly to the last. Funeral on Thursday 21st December at Altrincham Crematorium at 12 noon. Enquiries and flowers to Stephen Lindsey-Smith, Co-operative Funeral Services, Chorlton, Manchester M21 (0161-881 2212).

TURNER - On December 10th 1995, peacefully, Diana Margaret of Standerwick, Babcary, Somerset. Funeral Service at Babcary Parish Church on Thursday, December 21st at 2.15 pm. Enquiries and flowers c/o Forsey and Son, F/D, High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset, tel: (01458) 850554.

WILLIAMS-BROADHEAD-BLACKBURN - Patricia (Pat) of St Andrews Rest Home, Stick Hill, Edenbridge, Kent, very suddenly on December 12th, wife of the late Bill Williams, loving mother of Rob, Carolanne, Joey, grandmother of three and great-grandmother. The funeral will take place at Worth Crematorium on Thursday December 21st at 1 pm. Flowers welcome to S. Smith & Son, Edenbridge, Kent, tel: (01732) 862117. Donations if desired to Friends of St Andrews, Eden Hall, Stick Hill, Edenbridge, Kent.

WHITE - Bertram aged 88, formerly of London and Chichester, peacefully at Kinnocks House on December 14th. Husband of the late Evelyn and the late Betty. Father of John, Susan and Anthony and much loved grandfather. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Wednesday 20th December at 10.30 am. Family flowers only but donations, if so desired, to Sir Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ROSS - Alan Alistair (Angus) OBE. Died December 15th 1984. Remembering with love and gratitude the days of Wine and Roses.

SILBERSTON - Phoebe. Loving memories of darling mother. Gertrude Shilling.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MATTHEWS - Rt. Hon. The Lord Matthews of Southgate. Ian and Helen Matthews would like to thank everyone who expressed their sympathy and condolences at the recent loss of Lord and Lady Matthews. Also to those who sent letters, cards, beautiful floral tributes, donations to Cancer Relief and to all who attended the funeral service. Our sincere thanks to all.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

JENKINS:SANDFORD - On December 15th 1945 in London, Owen Jenkins D.S.C., R.N.V.R. to Eileen Maisie Sandford A.T.S. Congratulations from Jenny, Lynne, Stuart and Rory.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

SURROGATE mother sought for two lovely small dogs over Christmas, cannot pay kennel fees. Tel: 0171 727 0219

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OBITUARIES

EVANGELINE BRUCE

Evangeline Bruce, widow of David Bruce and author of *Napoleon and Josephine*, died on December 13 aged 81. She was born on November 27, 1914.

EVANGELINE BRUCE was a woman of elusive beauty and style who lived a life of gleaming success and elegance, interspersed with occasional dark pools of tragedy. For nearly a decade she was London's outstanding ambassadress, having previously performed the same role in Paris and in Bonn. Then, for a quarter of a century and from her fine rambling Georgetown house, she was as much the queen of Washington as had been other more ostentatious ladies of previous eras. She reigned, however, by understatement rather than flamboyance.

In the spring of this year she added a large and unusual jewel to the crown by producing at the age of 80 as her only published work a considerable, acclaimed and scholarly study of the marriage of Napoleon and Josephine and of the surrounding scene in revolutionary and imperial France. She had been semi-secretly working on the book for years, and its success would certainly have encouraged her to continue research and writing in this vein.

This was not to be. From the height of this success she plunged into the deepest and most literal of the black pools. Two mornings after the launch of the book she woke up blind and never regained her sight beyond a slight flickering of light and shade.

Another deep and dark pool was the murder, in 1976, of her only daughter (there were two sons) Sasha Bruce, at a family house in the Shenandoah Valley. The blow was not made lighter by the primary suspect being the daughter's recently acquired husband. He was indicted but, having returned to his native Greece, was not extradited. Evangeline Bruce's life, therefore, had plenty of shade to balance the brightness of the light. The courage with which she faced these vicissitudes belied the gossamer side to her appearance and personality.

Evangeline Bell (as she was before her marriage) was one of the two daughters of an American diplomat, Edward Bell, and an English mother. The other daughter, now Virginia Surtees, the author of several notable studies of English 19th-century figures, was at one time married to Sir Ashley Clarke, then British Ambassador in Rome. Both girls were brought up in an international and diplomatic *milieu*. "Vangie", as she mostly came to be called, spoke English with hardly a trace of an American accent, although her soft low voice was sufficiently idiosyncratic to be instantly recognisable and not to fit into any "standard" category. She spoke French almost perfectly and possessed acceptable Italian.

She was educated at various European schools, did courses at Radcliffe College (now incorporated in Harvard) and then, in the latter part of the war, worked first in Washington and then in London, in the Office of Strategic Services. There she encountered, and indeed worked under, her future husband, David Bruce. They were married in 1945. Only a few years ago she was telephoned by an American magazine, which was running a somewhat portentous survey, and asked whether she was ever subject to sexual harassment during her brief working career. Her reply was a good example of her liking for a mordant tease. "Yes, a lot," she said, getting her interlocutor very excited. "Could you tell us by whom?" was the next tremulous question. "Certainly," she answered to deep disappointment at the other end, "almost entirely by Colonel Bruce."

David K. E. Bruce was very much a Virginian gentleman who had been at Princeton, had been on the fringe of Democratic politics in both Virginia and Maryland between the wars and had married fairly young the immensely rich Ailsa Mellon. They had parted during the war. Although not a career Foreign Service officer, he began his glittering and professional Diplomatic Service soon after the Second World War. He was at different times in the late 1940s and 1950s, Ambassador to Paris and to Bonn and US Representative and godfather to the Coal and Steel Community in Luxembourg.

In the 1960s he served nearly the whole decade as an outstanding Ambassador in London. And then, in "semi-retirement", he conducted the Vietnam peace talks in Paris, opened and headed the first US mission to Communist China, and was finally Ambassador to Nato. He was one of the most skilled, if least abrasive, of the American pro-consuls in the plenitude of American power. He died suddenly but quietly in 1977 at the end of a Washington luncheon party. "It was just as though he had stepped out of the room for a moment," as someone wrote about it.

In their 32 years of marriage Evangeline Bruce was crucial to the success of all these missions. In London they between them made the embassy at once a very serious agent of Western unity and a social centre, spanning the spectrum of politics and the arts and much else, almost without precedent. Yet she survived three years in the very closed Peking of the early 1970s almost equally well.

Although greatly saddened by the death of her distinguished husband, she also survived her 18 years of widowhood, whether in Washington or London (where she lived in Albany for two or three months a year), or in the several houses which she rented for many Augusts in Italy (in conjunction there with her friend Marietta Tree) or the South of France. In these places she gave a vast amount of pleasure to her many friends and was, in a whimsical rather than an organising way, an irreplaceable Anglo-American link.

She leaves her two sons.

JOHN GILLETT

John Gillett, MBE, film critic and historian, died on December 8 aged 70. He was born on September 28, 1925.

JOHN GILLETT was for forty years one of the best-known figures on the international film festival circuit. His most notable contribution to film culture was his work in introducing to European audiences the long-hidden historic treasures of Japanese cinema. Last year the Japanese Government acknowledged this achievement by decorating him with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, with Gold Rays and Rosette — an honour rarely given to foreigners. The same month, more modestly, he was appointed MBE.

John Percy Gillett was born in Ealing. After school he took a secretarial course and then worked for the local paper, hoping to fulfil his first ambition to become a music critic. His passion for films was already strong, however, and he moved on to work as information officer at the British Film Academy, a small organisation devised by the pioneer film historian Roger Manvell, which was eventually to grow into the present Bafta.

In 1952 Gillett joined the British Film Institute as information officer. "I found I was surrounded by information about films which I had never seen," he recalled; "So from that time I made a commitment to search out as many of these films as I could, and to present them to audiences wherever I was able." The rest of his working life was to be spent at the BFI, latterly as researcher and programme adviser to the National Film Theatre and the London Film Festival.

The first major season he organised for the National Film Theatre, in 1967, was devoted to Buster Keaton, until then quite forgotten. Other great directors of silent cinema resurrected in Gillett seasons included Ernst Lubitsch, William C. de Mille, Frank Borzage, Robert Siodmak and the Russian film-maker and pugilist Boris Barnet.

The 1957 National Film Theatre season "A Light in the Japanese Window", devised by Derek Prouse and Kashiko Kawakita, proved a revelation for him. With a grant from the Japan Foundation, Gillett went to Tokyo for marathon viewings of the holdings of the film archives there. This enabled him, in time, to pass on his discoveries to London audiences, until then aware of Japan only through the films of Akira Kurosawa.

Gillett was to reveal the marvels of older Japanese masters — Mizoguchi, Ozu, Kinoshita, Gosho, Naruse, Shimizu, Kobayashi, Imai, Toyoda. Unexpectedly these seemingly esoteric presentations proved far better box office than the NFT's more calculatedly commercial seasons. Throughout the 1980s the National Film Theatre offered a new Japanese season every year; afterwards the programmes were packaged for tours to other world centres.

No small part of the success of these seasons was Gillett's persuasive proselytising. He wrote well, wisely and, above all, enthusiastically about films. His reviews and articles appeared regularly in *The Monthly Film Bulletin* and *Sight and Sound*, while he contributed reviews of film festivals to a variety of dailies and weeklies. With an impressive musical knowledge, he was notably perceptive about the use of music in films.

He shared his vast knowledge freely and generously. His skill, acquired in years of festival-going, for unravelling complex and overcrowded programmes, was a byword and other critics relied on the ingenious viewing schedules he would work out to ensure that no vital screening was missed.

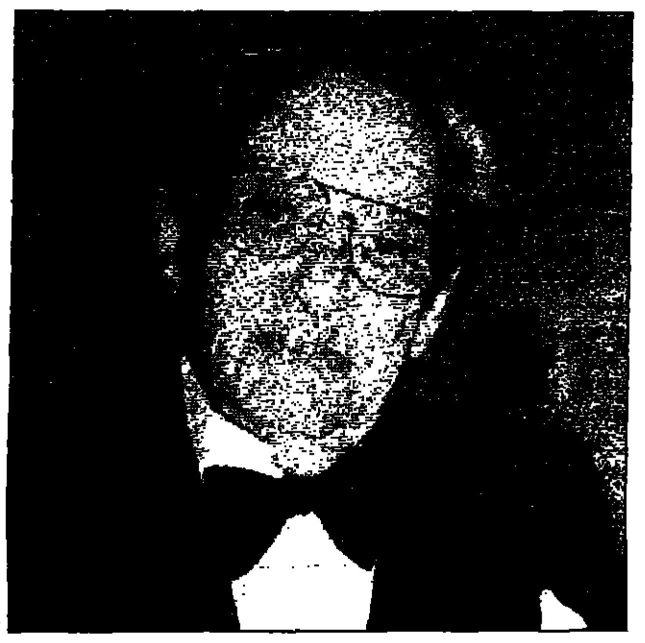
Gillett was a man totally without malice, and incapable of seeing ill-will in others. He survived within the British Film Institute, innocently untouched by that organisation's internal politics and periodic upheavals.

Unfailingly polite, incorrigibly friendly, his disapproval was reserved for bad film-makers ("The man doesn't know where to put his camera") and inadequate film projection. He was, indeed, the terror of film projectionists throughout the world, appearing, courteous but firm, at their door the moment the focus was off or the sound too loud. The only time he had been known to put up with soft focus was at the Cannes Festival some years ago when the gendarme guarding the projection box door unbuttoned his holster and released the safety catch of his pistol as he loomed up.

His enthusiasm remained unquenchable, even though he had grown increasingly ill during the past year or so. In October he attended a favourite annual event, the Pordenone Festival of silent cinema. There, though barely able to walk, he was overjoyed to see a long-lost early film by, and starring, one of his idols, Ernst Lubitsch. This was to be the last film he saw; he went into hospital the next day.

He remained unmarried.

ERIC GLASS



Eric Glass, literary and theatrical agent, died in London on December 4 aged 88. He was born in Vienna on February 16, 1907.

FOR almost sixty years Eric Glass presided over the careers of a wide variety of international writers, actors and directors from his spacious script-cluttered eyrie perched over a succession of nightclubs and restaurants at the top of Berkeley Square. His clients were British, continental and American, ranging at times from Richard Tauber and Sir Donald Wolfit to Edmund Purdom and Edward Woodward; from Arthur Schnitzler to Philip King and Falkland L. Cary; from Oscar Homolka to Roy Plomley.

His delight in approaching a deal, and his inventive sagacity in clinching it, were a byword in theatre and film circles. Nothing pleased him more than the watertight contract he achieved for Peter Cotes, the original director of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* in 1952. It proved impregnable when director and producer famously fell out soon after the opening. Cotes declined to be bought off with a lump sum, despite the blandishments of Richard Attenborough, the original star, who also had a continuing interest in the production. He receives his royalties to this day, 43 years on.

Eric Glass was born in Vienna and his accent was forever overlaid with a generous helping of *mittel* European cream. His father, Adolf Glass, was Austrian, but his mother Annette, *née* Goldschmidt, was English, a descendant of Baron Lyon de Symons and the eminent British philanthropist Sir Samuel Ellis, a founder of the Great Western Railway.

Educated in Vienna, where he later attended university, the young Eric was a frequent visitor to England where he had many relatives. He had shown signs of being a musical prodigy, giving his first piano recital in his home city at the age of nine. Throughout his life his favourite composer remained Johann Strauss, II, with whom his mother proudly claimed to have waltzed.

However, Glass soon showed more interest in writing and began a career as a journalist and theatre critic. On his London visits he acted as a correspondent for various Austrian newspapers.

He moved permanently to London in the early 1930s and established his agency in 1934. Its initial premises were in Piccadilly House. Among his many early schemes was the importation and promotion of musicals involving colleagues encountered during his Viennese days. Richard Tauber appeared as Schubert in *Blossom Time* and as Sou Chong, his famous role in *The Land of Smiles*.

In 1942 *Old Chelsea* was "a musical romance" in which, in a manner akin to the modern concept of "packaging", Glass represented Walter Ellis (author of the comedy *A Little Bit of Fluff*) on whose book it was based, Richard Tauber, the star and composer, and Bernard Green, who provided additional lighter numbers. Tauber and Glass insisted on casting the young Carol Lynne as the little milliner, who brings the play to a happy ending, against the determined opposition of the impresario Bernard Delfont whose first production it was. Eventually Delfont gave in and later he married Miss Lynne.

Glass also had a hand in wartime and postwar revivals of *White Horse Inn* and *Summer Song*. In 1942 he married Blanche Clarke and for many years they presided over the business from two massive desks which sat side by side in the impressive main room of the Berkeley Square offices, both desks always swamped in letters, contracts and manuscripts.

As well as administering the affairs of his long and varied list of clients, Glass translated a great number of plays into German. Those enjoying major productions included texts by John Drinkwater, Walter Ellis, Jerome K. Jerome, Anthony Armstrong, Roland Pertwee and St John Ervine. Many of his translations are still performed in Europe.

The firm's client list expanded dramatically when Glass found himself appointed representative for the English speaking countries of the *Société des auteurs et compositeurs dramatiques*.

This brought under his aegis the estates or the ongoing work of many European authors including Albert Camus, Georges Feydeau, André Gide, Sacha Guitry and Jean Paul Sartre. A colleague once congratulated the agent on representing the best list of dead authors he had ever come across. His better-known English clients over the years included Rodney Ackland, for whose survival he fought during Ackland's unfashionable years, Patrick Cargill, Vivian Ellis, William Douglas-Home, Noel Langley, Eric Maschwitz and Wolf Mankowitz.

One of Glass's longest struggles for a play was over the enduring hit *Seagulls Over Sorrento*. When he received it from the author Hugh Hastings, he followed his usual custom of giving it to four readers. With four adverse reports, as in this case, it was his practice to return any MS. However, Blanche Glass picked it up by mistake, thinking it was still under consideration, and read it through the night. Told that it was a reject she protested that it had something "compelling". Her husband read it. He agreed with her and sent it to the leading West End producer, Hugh ("Binkie") Beaumont, who hated it, its all-male cast and its working-class characters.

For two years Glass tried to arrange a production, submitting it to every other management, touring company and rep. As with the much earlier army play *Journey's End*, it eventually saw the stage (of the Comedy Theatre) in one Sunday performance for the Repertory Players. Kitty Black, monitoring it for Beaumont, immediately insisted that he buy it in spite of stiff opposition from the fledgeling management of George and Alfred Black. On visiting the agent's offices, Beaumont was reminded of his earlier rejection and Glass achieved a fine contract for his author. Beaumont presented the play with the Blacks. It ran for 1,551 performances.

Glass showed similar faith in the early work of the young dramatist Charles Dyer (*Rattle of a Simple Man* and *The Staircase*) and looked after the director John Dexter's affairs in the 1990s.

He continued to run his agency with an intriguingly personal touch; yet his business acumen always stayed sharp under his avuncular manner. He and Blanche fought fiercely and imaginatively for their clients and had an endearing way of referring to them. Of Sir Donald Wolfit, for example, they would say proudly: "Ah yes, Donald, he is one of our darlinks!"

Blanche Glass died in 1980. In August 1983 Eric married Janet Crowley who joined him in running and expanding the business during the 1980s and 1990s, and cared for him devotedly during his prolonged, painful and complicated illness.

She survives him, as do his daughter and son from his first marriage.

AURIOL WATKIN

Auriol Watkin, OBE, university lecturer and magistrate, died on November 28 aged 77. She was born on March 3, 1918.

AURIOL WATKIN was one of the country's leading authorities on the treatment of young offenders. Despite the fact that she never had any children herself, she had the invaluable experience, for her work on the Bench, of her many years as a university lecturer at Aberystwyth.

It was as a senior magistrate on the Talybont (later the North Cardiganshire) Bench, 1955-88, that she was first drawn into the problems of delinquency, and she became chairman of the Magistrates' Association Juvenile Courts Committee, 1973-83. She had progressive views about the causes of delinquency. Many of the children appearing before her, for instance, charged with shoplifting, assault and truancy, came from middle-class families. She blamed the surprisingly high rate of offending among these so-called good families, on parents either ignoring their children, or having unrealistically high academic expectations of them.

Her publications concentrated on truancy, of which she had experience from her days as a schoolteacher. Later, problem university students at Aberystwyth were often passed on to her, as one vice-chancellor put it, "to see if she could do something with them before they were asked to leave". She was proud of the fact that none of these "problems" had been failures. One became an MP, another a British ambassador, and several later served in the United Nations. A Cabinet minister in the Far East, a film star and a conductor of a silver band had all been under her wing.

Margaret Auriol Griffiths, as she was before marriage, was born in Tumble, Carmarthenshire, the daughter of a mining engineer. Criminal law ran in the family veins, as did the spirit of public service. Her cousin on the paternal side was Professor Glanville Williams of Cambridge, an authority on criminal law. On the maternal side, her great uncle was the philanthropist Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, founder of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

She was educated at a local school at Gwendraeth, which was particularly noted for producing Welsh rugby internationals. She then gained two degrees — in economics and political science, and in geography — at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, before training as a teacher. She became vice-president of the students' union at Aberystwyth — women being at that time debarred from the presidency.

Appointments followed at schools in Neath and Cardiff, and then lectureships in education at the university colleges at Swansea and Aberystwyth. She was chairman of the Talybont Bench four times. On retirement in 1988 she was made vice-president of the Magistrates' Association. She was appointed OBE in 1985.

She is survived by her husband, Dr Iestyn Watkin.

ON THIS DAY

December 15, 1926

One of the early detective novels by Agatha Christie is entitled The Mysterious Affair at Styles. *Her disappearance in 1926 was an equally mysterious affair.*

MRS. CHRISTIE FOUND.
STAYING AT A HYDRO.
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

HARROGATE, Dec. 14.

Mrs. Agatha Christie, of Sunningdale, Berks, who left home on Friday night, December 3, and whose motor-car was found abandoned at Newlands Corner early next morning, was found to-night staying as a guest at the Harrogate Hydro.

Following a message received from the local police, Colonel Christie travelled to Harrogate, arriving here at 6.30 this evening. In company with Inspector MacDowell he went to the Hydro and took up a position in the lounge. After half-an-hour's wait the woman who was supposed to be the missing woman came down the stairs, and Colonel Christie at once recognized her as his wife. After an affectionate greeting they entered the dining-room together.

Colonel Christie afterwards stated that Mrs. Christie was suffering from complete loss of memory. "She does not know who she is," he said. "We are hoping to take her to London to-morrow to see specialists, and that after rest and quiet, she will be fully restored." Colonel Christie thanked the Press and also the police for their untiring efforts to trace his wife.

Mrs. Christie arrived at the Hydro on the night of Saturday, December 4, the day following her disappearance. She had with her only an attaché case. She registered in an assumed name and was understood to have come from Cape Colony.

There was nothing unusual in her appearance or manner. She took her place among the other guests, and it is stated read the newspapers daily. Last evening someone in the Hydro noticed that there was a resemblance between her and a photograph of Mrs. Christie which has been published.

The police were informed, and Superintendent MacDowell and other officers visited the Hydro, and, following their observations, the Surrey police were communicated with.

It will be recalled that after the disappearance of Mrs. Christie a letter was received from her by a brother of Colonel Christie, living at Woolwich, stating that she was in ill-health and was going to a Yorkshire spa.

The Surrey police communicated with certain centres in Yorkshire and satisfied themselves, it was understood, that she was not then in that county.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIONA So will you marry me then? Yours hoping Mike.

I trust everyone has had a magical evening and a special thanks to Dermot for choosing the nine of clubs, regards Howard.

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Court and Social Page
Over the Christmas period the following deadline will apply:-
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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15 1995

NEWS

Condon condemns Brixton 'thugs'

■ Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, last night launched a criminal investigation into inflammatory speeches which he claimed incited people to riot and attack the police in Brixton on Wednesday night.

Condemning "thugs" who caused £1 million of damage and those whom he accused of fanning the flames of hatred with their speeches outside Brixton police station, he said speakers at a vigil could face criminal charges .... **Pages 1, 2, 3, 16, 17**

Major reinforces currency doubts

■ Britain's doubts over a single European currency were reinforced as John Major arrived in Madrid for a crucial summit that will be dominated by the issue of monetary union. He said there had to be a full-scale study into the implications of going ahead with only a handful of countries .... **Pages 1, 10**

Peace accord signed

The Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia signed the Bosnia Herzegovina Peace Accord in Paris, formally ending a conflict that has left more than 200,000 dead .... **Pages 1, 11**

Inflation falls

Inflation fell again in November, making it the longest peace-time run of low prices since the 1930s. Underlying inflation stayed at 2.9 per cent.......................**Pages 1, 21**

Loan plans put off

Controversial plans to privatise student loans are to be postponed by a year, the Education Minister announced. The delay will prevent the adoption of a new system before the next election.....**Page 2**

Charterhouse head

The Rev John Witheridge, 42, the senior chaplain at Eton College, is to be the new headmaster of Charterhouse. The previous head was alleged to have consorted with prostitutes ....**Page 2**

Pollyanna cleared

Pollyanna Peate, accused of killing her married lover after he tried to end their 10-year affair, was cleared. She left court hugging her husband ....**Page 5**

Venables criticised

Terry Venables, the England soccer coach, was criticised by a county court judge for giving evidence that was at variance with his autobiography............**Page 6**

Hounded out

The executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, who is accused of undermining the campaign to abolish hunting, said his position had been made untenable..........................**Page 6**

Hospital for killer

Stephen Wilkinson, the killer of Nikki Conroy, 12, who was stabbed to death in a Middlesbrough classroom, was sent to a hospital for the criminally insane for the rest of his life ...... **Page 7**

Medal memories

Mike Logan has spent his life savings on the George Medal awarded to the Air Raid Protection warden who saved his life during a bombing raid on Coventry in October 1940 ....**Page 8**

Metro reopens

Hopes of ending the French transport strike rose as parts of the Paris Metro system briefly reopened and a union leader sought negotiations .... **Page 10**

Floating voters

Up to a third of Russian voters have not decided how or if they will vote on Sunday, but the Communists are expected to win most seats in the Duma .... **Page 12**

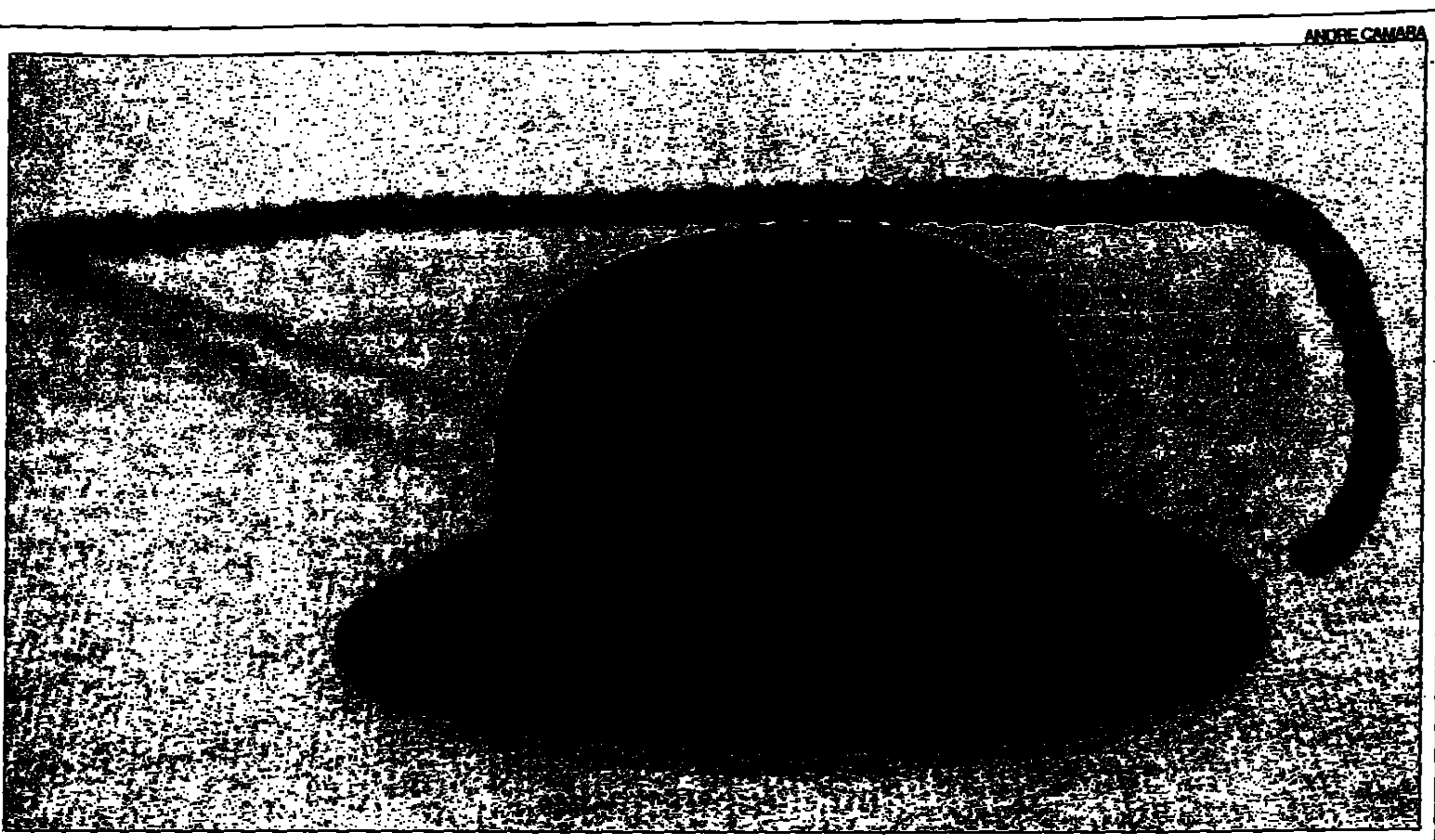
Backing for Wei

Wei Jingsheng, the Chinese dissident sentenced to 14 years in jail, is considered to be innocent by some of the guards and court officials at his trial......... **Page 13**

Island of hope in a sea of traffic

■ A pile of scrap metal and bollards resembling crashed cars and entitled *The Island of Hope* has been installed on a roundabout in Telford by Wrekin District Council. It paid £6,000 to the artist, Mark Evans, and spent £24,000 on re-routing traffic. The work was funded by the National Lottery and has led to protests to Virginia Bottomley................ **Page 6**

ANDRE CAMARA



A bowler hat and cane described as one of Charlie Chaplin's favourite sets, bought by a Swiss museum for £44,750 at Christie's

Telephones: Consumers should find it easier to take their telephone numbers with them when they switch from BT to rival cable firms, the regulator says .... **Page 21**

Economy: British inflation dipped for the second month in a row and interest rates fell across Europe in the wake of the British cut the previous day...................... **Page 21**

Forte: Granada said it could boost Forte's profits by £100 million a year if its hostile bid for the hotel and restaurant group succeeds........................ **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 9.2 points to close at 3671.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 83.0 after a rise from $1.5327 to $1.5393 but a fall from DM2.2221 to DM2.2197.....**Page 24**

Cricket: England's gamble with an inexperienced attack paid dividends on the first day of the third Test in Durban. South Africa scored 139 for five before bad light stopped play..................... **Page 40**

Rugby union: Will Carling, the England captain, led the way into the new era when he reached agreement with the RFU over a professional contract .... **Page 40**

Athletics: In a change of selection policy for the Olympic Games the first two finishers in each event at the British trials will be guaranteed places in the team .... **Page 40**

Football: Jack Charlton's resignation as manager of Ireland still looks the most likely outcome after the team was knocked out of the European championship...**Page 37**

Good company: Sam Mendes, tipped for the top job at the National, did his chances no harm with a fine Donmar Warehouse staging of Sondheim's *Company*...**Page 29**

Superb return: Directing piano concertos from the keyboard, Daniel Barenboim played at the Festival Hall in a concert marking the 25th anniversary of Sir John Barbirolli's death ....**Page 29**

Gallery at war: A new exhibition at the National Gallery recalls the evacuation of the gallery's collection to a Welsh slate mine during the Second World War..... **Page 30**

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on Roxy Music collected; Caitlin Moran on the highs and lows of 1995; Paul Sexton on a label of "tasteless" music .... **Page 31**

Valerie Grove interviews Jack Dee, the comic in a collar and tie who makes a joke out of not laughing and whose gags are more juvenile than he is.......................... **Page 14**

Backlash to grunge: Women yearning for an hour-glass figure now realise that a steel casing and a sharp tug of the laces can construct the necessary curves in seconds. Corsets are like high heels, uncomfortable but wonderfully flattering — and they're back........... **Page 15**

Giving your life: The teaching profession is increasingly aware that heads and other staff are being called on to show physical courage in dealing with violence on their premises ....**Page 33**

More homeless New Yorkers could freeze to death this winter than last. Homeless-rights advocates need to admit that not every person who calls himself homeless is entitled to an apartment at public expense. And the city needs to make sure that enough permanent housing options remain open, and should put in place a rigorous screening programme to ensure that only those who deserve and can sustain the housing receive it. Meanwhile, officials need to make sure that homeless people are not beaten back at the shelter door: already two have died weather-related deaths — *The New York Times*

IN THE TIMES

■ PUPPY LOVE
Dalmatians, Disney, dog lovers and 101 problems

■ WIN A FAX
Seven Panasonic phone faxes to be won in our 12 days of Christmas competitions

Preview: Fresh life for the "day-in-the-life" format in a look at the musical Victoria Coach Station: *Bus Stop* (Channel 4, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss feels sorry for Howard Hughes...............**Page 39**

Flames of greed

The people of Brixton should not be confused with this criminal fringe element which disgraced their community this week..............**Page 17**

Balance the budget

Republicans must concede part of their tax proposals and the Administration the need for greater discipline on health spending. Then a welcome move to fiscal responsibility can be delivered before Christmas.........................**Page 17**

Lost daylight

The Cabinet's decision to try to sabotage John Butterfill's Private Member's Bill on daylight-saving time is another sad instance of the weak will and shortsightedness which has brought John Major's Government to its present sorry pass..........................**Page 17**

PAUL BARKER

Is what happened in Brixton really a race riot? Or is it a class riot, bringing together the poor in one explosive mix? Many of the rioters were white..........................**Page 16**

PHILIP HOWARD

Remember, a hamster is not just for Christmas. It is just for Friday — and possibly just for Friday breakfast. The point of pets is to teach children that animals are serial killers..........................**Page 16**

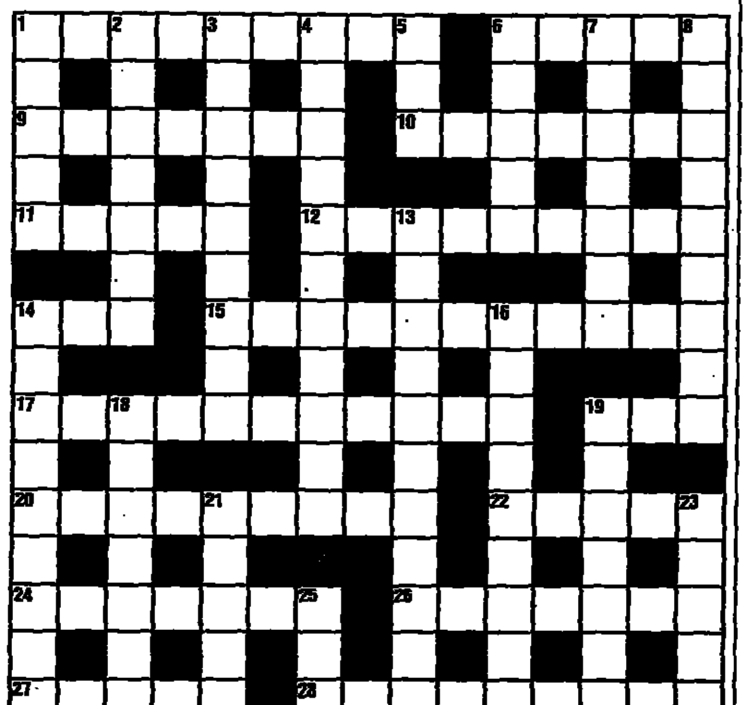
BERNARD LEVIN

I have said a thousand times that power should be used upside down; the bigger the slice of it the more wary the user should be, and *vice versa*. And when it comes to a Devon bungalow permission-giver, the very tiniest scrap of the heady stuff should be used only with the head immersed in a bowl of very cold water ....**Page 16**

Evangeline Bruce, author; **Jo Gillett**, film critic and historian; **Eric Glass**, literary and theatrical agent ....**Page 19**

Knife attacks; Europe; catching "mad cow" disease..............**Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,039



ACROSS

1 Happen it will get wasted on unknown nag (9).
6 Publication featuring Hardy, for one (5).
9 Born out of wedlock, but one sure to succeed (7).
10 Alloy with two metals used in a medal (7).
11 "Be acquainted with beauty", said Swedish chemist (5).
12 Not as well organized as Jackson (9).
14 Nothing splits up partnership, that's the trouble (3).
15 Scripture held in varying reverence as a source of control (5,6).
17 Unfaithful just after tea, say (11).
19 Some have to be critical examiners (3).
20 Notice girl's prayer-book (9).
22 Bulb could be lit up (5).
24 Sailor, a solitary inhabitant of the deep (7).
26 Tell island about Lawrence, initially (7).
27 Poor Edward imprisoned by marshal (5).
28 Republic harbours chap who's evasive and mercenary (9).

DOWN

1 Ten-nil upset — it's a gas! (5).
2 Somebody incompetent? (7).
3 Henry changed Ireland's bad luck (4,5).
4 Puppeteer may have to exert influence clandestinely (4,7).
5 Stage retreat, ignoring the odds (3).
6 Drive carriage? Not I! (5).
7 Long-distance traveller wants road to be given subsidy (7).
8 Most pleasant stories, after getting me tucked into bed (9).
13 Take a trip as soon as unwritten article has been accepted (11).
14 Having got exhausted, scratched (9).
16 English instructor depresses a number of voters (9).
18 Catch up 5 points (7).
19 Luxurious residence, home for criminal (7).
21 Plant with green leaves, variegated with gold and cream (5).
23 Man still spoken of (5).
25 Mischievous creature in the money? Penniless, in fact (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,038

BLESS SCINTILLA
O X C C N I A W
WHIPROUND PASHA
L S A T E P T R
ENTOMB AFFECTED
G B S I R H
GUILLOTINE TIFF
E M E R I V N I
DOPE BOOTLEGGER
R A K E H E
SCOTFREE HERBAL
L V G P E M R I
APISH LINGERING
N S A A I N N H
GREENEYED TIGHT

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 9C (48F); lowest day max: Altnaharra, Highland, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Guernsey, 0.3in; highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, 5hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a mainly cloudy day with the best of any brightness in the West. Eastern areas may have a few scattered showers and there will be some wintry showers along the south coast. Elsewhere it will be mainly dry. Remaining very windy in the South.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a largely dry day. The brightest places will be central and western areas. The cloudier spots will be along the eastern side, where there may be the odd shower. Winds will be generally light from the East.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England:** cloudy, a few wintry showers. Wind northeast, fresh or strong. Very cold in wind. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **E Midlands, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland:** mostly dry, bright spells. Wind northeast, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Borders:** mainly dry, a few brighter spells. Wind east, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** some bright spells, a few showers. Wind northeast, fresh to strong. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry, bright intervals. Wind east, gentle. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** bright, some sunshine. Wind east, light or gentle. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** mainly dry with the brightest weather likely in the northwest.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

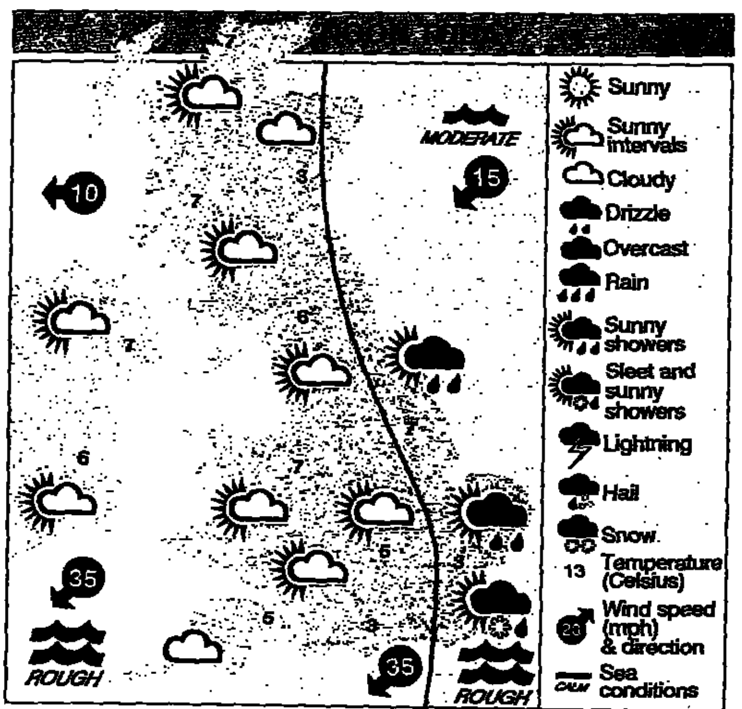
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.4	0.02	6	43	c
Anglesey	4.8	0.01	7	45	s
Aspatria	2.9	-	6	43	b
Aviemore	0.6	0.02	5	41	sh
Belfast	3.8	0.01	7	45	b
Birmingham	-	0.10	4	39	sh
Bognor R	1.8	-	5	41	b
Bournem'th	0.4	-	5	41	c
Bristol	0.9	0.03	5	41	b
Buxton	0.2	0.02	3	37	c
Cardiff	1.1	0.02	5	41	c
Clacton	0.3	0.01	5	41	c
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	0.5	-	7	45	c
Cromer	-	0.04	6	43	du
Doncaster	X				
Eastbourne	0.1	0.01	5	41	sl
Edinburgh	0.7	0.09	7	45	sh
Eskdalemuir	2.7	-	5	41	b
Exmouth	X				
Falmouth	1.8	0.01	7	45	c
Fishguard	2.2	-	7	45	b
Folkestone	-	0.03	5	41	c
Glasgow	2.7	-	6	43	b
Guernsey	-	0.30	8	46	h
Hastings	-	0.06	5	41	c
Hayling I	0.5	-	X	X	c
Herne Bay	2.8	0.10	5	41	h
Hove	0.5	-	6	43	c
Hunstanton	1.0	0.06	6	43	c
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	1.3	-	8	46	b
Jersey	-	0.11	5	41	sh
Kinloss	1.3	0.02	7	45	sh
Leeds	0.5	0.02	5	41	r
Lerwick	-	-	5	41	c
Leuchars	0.8	0.13	7	45	sh
Littlehmptn	1.0	-	5	41	b
Liverpool	2.2	-	6	43	s
London	0.9	-	6	43	c
Lowestoft	-	0.01	5	41	c
Manchester	1.2	0.01	6	43	c
Margate	2.9	0.02	5	41	sn
Minehead	0.9	-	6	43	h
Morecambe	5.0	-	7	45	s
Newcastle	1.2	0.10	6	43	sh
Newquay	3.7	-	7	45	b
Norwich	0.5	0.06	5	41	c
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	0.1	0.02	5	41	c
Penzance	3.2	-	8	46	s
Plymouth	1.6	-	6	43	c
Poole	0.3	-	5	41	c
Prestatyn	X	-	7	45	c
Ross-o-wye	0.6	0.02	5	41	c
Ryde	X				
Sandown	0.4	-	5	41	c
Saunton Snd	1.7	-	7	45	b
Scarboro'	0.4	0.04	6	43	c
Shanklin	0.9	-	5	41	b
Shrewsbury	1.3	0.01	6	43	r
Skegness	0.6	0.10	7	45	sh
Southend	0.8	0.03	6	43	r
Southport	2.1	-	7	45	b
Southsea	0.2	-	5	41	c
St. Ives	X				
Stornoway	2.8	-	7	45	b
Swanage	0.3	-	6	43	c
Teignmouth	1.3	-	7	45	c
Tenby	X				
Tiree	3.9	-	6	43	b
Torquay	0.6	-	7	45	c
Tynemouth	1.0	0.06	7	45	c
Ventnor	1.5	-	5	41	c
West-s-mare	X				
Weymouth	-	-	5	41	c

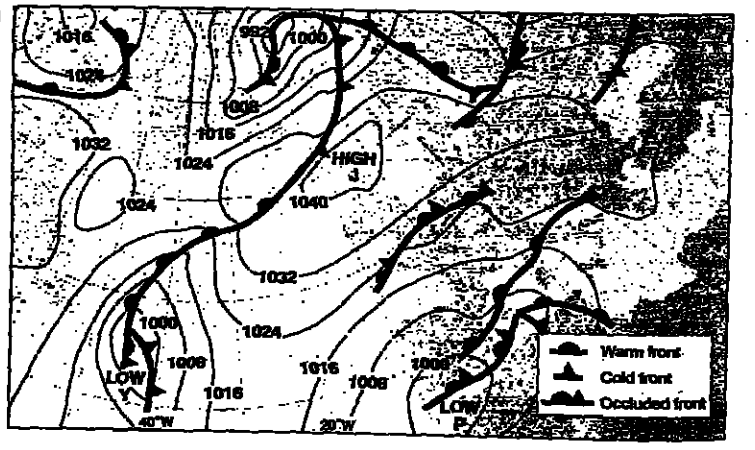
ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	10	50	f
Akrotiri	17	63	s
Alex'dria	17	63	f
Algiers	17	63	f
Amst'dm	1	34	s
Athens	15	59	f
B Aires	26	79	s
Bahrain	21	70	s
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barcelona	3	37	d
Beirut	16	61	s
Belfast	6	43	f
Belgrade	8	46	s
Berlin	1	34	c
Bermuda	18	64	c
Biarritz	0	32	c
Borde'x	0	32	c
Brussels	1	34	sn
Budapst	2	36	sn
Cairo	17	63	c
Cape Tn	23	73	s
Ch'church	20	68	X
Chicago	-3	27	c
Cologne	3	37	c
Corfu	14	57	f
C'phagn	-1	30	s
Dublin	7	45	r
Dubrovnik	12	54	r
Faro	13	55	f
Florence	6	43	s
Frankfurt	1	34	sn
Funchal	16	61	r
Geneva	-1	30	c
Gibraltar	16	61	c
Helsinki	-4	25	sn
Hong K	21	70	f
Innsbrck	-3	27	f
Istanbul	10	50	s
Jeddah	27	81	s
Jo'burg	19	66	s
Karachi	27	81	s
L Angels	16	61	c
L Palmas	23	73	f
Le Tquet	2	36	f
Lisbon	9	48	s
Locarno	2	36	sn
Luxembg	0	32	c
Luxor	20	68	c
Madrid	5	41	s
Majorca	7	45	c
Malaga	12	54	c
Malta	18	64	f
Melb'rne	17	63	s
Mexico C	8	46	s
Miami	26	79	c
Milan	2	36	sn
Montreal	-13	9	X
Moscow	-4	25	sn
Munich	-4	25	sn
N Delhi	19	66	f
N York	-2	28	c
Nairobi	23	73	f
Naples	15	59	f
Nice	9	48	f
Oslo	-1	30	s
Paris	1	34	c
Peking	4	39	s
Perth	23	73	c
Prague	-4	25	c
Reykjavik	7	45	c
Rhodes	13	55	r
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	18	64	f
Rome	13	55	f
S Fr'isco	14	57	f
Salzburg	-3	27	c
Santiago	29	84	s
Seoul	6	43	r
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	-3	27	s
Strasb'rg	-1	30	sn
Sydney	20	68	s
Tangier	16	61	f
Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Tenerife	23	73	s
Tokyo	13	55	s
Toronto	-5	23	s
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	9	48	f
Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Venice	2	36	r
Vienna	-2	28	sn
Warsaw	-3	27	c
Wash'ton	-1	30	c
Wel'ngton	19	66	-
Zurich	-4	25	sn

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high J, centred over the Northern Isles, will maintain its position and central pressure. Low Y will push east and deepen. Low P will travel northeast and lose its identity



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:18	6.28	7:07	6.32
Aberdeen	6:38	3.56	6:50	3.67
Avonmouth	11:50	10.56	—	—
Belfast	3:58	2.93	4:22	3.23
Cardiff	11:35	9.86	—	—
Devonport	10:33	4.68	11:07	4.42
Dover	3:47	5.67	4:11	5.46
Dublin	4:58	3.33	5:23	3.48
Falmouth	10:05	4.25	10:48	4.00
Glasgow	5:53	3.81	6:05	4.29
Harwich	4:16	3.51	4:56	3.45
Holyhead	3:23	4.56	3:40	4.69
Hull	11:18	6.01	11:35	6.14
Ilfracombe	10:56	7.45	11:34	7.19
King's Lynn	11:26	5.06	11:55	5.11
Leith	7:51	4.65	8:10	4.62
Liverpool	4:02	7.66	4:24	7.68
Lowestoft	2:00	2.32	3:32	2.09
Margate	4:35	4.17	5:26	4.01
Milford Haven	11:18	5.82	11:51	5.34
Newquay	10:20	5.34	10:57	5.16
Oban	10:32	3.32	11:21	3.04
Penzance	9:44	4.63	10:22	4.40
Portland	10:56	1.59	11:57	1.48
Portsmouth	4:11	4.18	4:22	3.95
Shoreham	3:47	5.19	4:11	4.99
Southampton	3:44	4.03	4:02	3.87
Swansea	11:22	7.54	11:57	7.28
Tees	9:05	4.33	9:19	4.48
W'ton-on-Nze	4:18	3.73	5:01	3.67

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.59 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets 12.04 pm
Moon rises -
Last quarter today

London 3.52 pm to 8.00 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.10 am
Edinburgh 3.38 pm to 8.38 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.19 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.15 am

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ARTS 29-31

What did you do in the war, National Gallery?

EDUCATION 33

One of the most gifted teachers of his generation

SPORT 35-40

Downhill path leads Street to edge of skiing immortality

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38,39

THE TIMES

Inflation fall adds to joy for exporters

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

LONDON'S financial markets were cheered on two fronts yesterday with British inflation falling for the second month in a row and interest rates falling throughout Europe, bringing good news for British exporters.

Headline retail price inflation edged down to 3.1 per cent in November, from 3.2 per cent in October, according to the Central Statistical Office (CSO). This was slightly better than the unchanged rate the City had anticipated.

The rate of underlying inflation held steady at 2.9 per cent, while the RPIY measure, which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, was unchanged at 2.4 per cent. The Treasury was quick to point out that underlying inflation has been below 4 per cent for 38 consecutive months, the longest period of low inflation in peacetime since the 1930s.

THE Central Statistical Office said the electricity rebate of about £50 due to the National Grid sale will have no impact on the retail prices index. Instead of counting it as a price fall, the rebate is being recorded as a transfer of income from electricity companies to consumers. The decision was unexpected in the City which was expecting the rebate to be recorded as a price cut. This would have taken 1 to 1.5 per cent off the headline rate of inflation early next year, adding the same amount in the spring of 1997. This would have meant inflation was rising just before a 1997 election.

Pennington, page 23

These figures added lustre to the trio of good news on Wednesday with another fall in unemployment, a rise in retail sales and an interest rate cut. On top of this, however, came a round of interest rate cuts in Europe.

The Bundesbank yesterday cut its discount rate by half a point to 3 per cent, and its Lombard rate by the same margin to 5 per cent. These are the first cuts in official German rates since August and triggered easier money in Belgium, The Netherlands, Austria and Denmark. The Swiss National Bank anticipated the German move, announcing a few minutes earlier that it was cutting its discount rate to 1.5 per cent from 2 per cent.

The German move was a somewhat unexpected fillip for the markets. Although a German rate cut was widely expected, some economists felt that the Bundesbank might delay the decision until early in the new year.

As it was, Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, said the issue had been hotly debated for the last three meetings of the policy-making council, and that it had been decided to leave the decision until its new money supply target was set.

The Bundesbank set a broader target for its main-M3 money supply measure of 4 to 7 per cent from this year's 4 to 6 per cent.

In London, the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares jumped to a trading all-time high of 3,683.7 after the Bundesbank news. There is deep scepticism in the stock market that the Government will be able to hit its 3 per cent growth target next year, with particular concern about the Treasury's optimistic predictions for British exports. European rate cuts may help.

By the close, the FT-SE had lost some of its gains, ending 9.2 points higher at 3,671.6. Sterling held unchanged on its effective index at 83.0 and gilts closed modestly higher.

The biggest contribution to the drop in the headline rate of inflation was falling motoring costs, largely due to second-hand car prices. There was also a fall in petrol prices between October and November. Other downward effects came from prices for food, household goods and alcohol.

Many City analysts now believe that inflation has peaked and will continue to slide over the months ahead. The CSO estimated yesterday that the net effect on the RPI of November's Budget excise duty changes will be 0.14 per cent off the annual rate of headline inflation because they were not as large as in the previous Budget.

In addition, there will be a downward effect of 0.23 per cent as the previous Budget's reduction in mortgage interest tax relief falls out of the annual comparison, and the RPI will additionally be depressed by recent cuts in mortgage rates. A half-point cut in mortgage rates usually takes 0.325 per cent off headline inflation.

Secret forecasts fuel doubt over George's advice

By Anatole Kaletsky, Economics Editor

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, faces new strains in his difficult relations with Parliament after the unexpected publication of previously secret details of the Bank's inflation forecasts. The figures cast further doubt on Mr George's explanations of his monetary advice to the Chancellor, and undercut a statement he made to the Commons Treasury Committee a week ago.

Sir Thomas Arnold, chairman of the committee, yesterday said he planned to write to Mr George to demand an explanation of figures in a research feature in yesterday's *Financial Times*. Matthew Carrington, a Tory MP on the committee, said he would now press for full disclosure of detailed inflation forecasts that the Bank shows only as an imprecise chart in its quarterly *Inflation Report*. These inflation forecasts have repeatedly been cited by the Governor as a key consideration in his advice on interest rates. The City and MPs have often demanded publication of Bank forecasts, but the Bank has refused — most recently in Mr George's appearance before the Treasury Committee last week.

Yesterday, however, the detailed inflation figures, including the Bank's latest full projections for the period to the end of 1997, were published with Bank approval. To confuse matters further, a Bank spokesman said this was "a one-off decision" and no more would be published.

The figures showed that until Wednesday's cut in base rates, the Bank was even more pessimistic about inflation than generally assumed. In the November *Inflation Report*, the Bank said it expected inflation to "fall towards, but remain just above", the official target of 2.5 per cent. In fact, the November forecast showed inflation of 2.7 per cent in each quarter of 1997. This unexpectedly high forecast made it all the more surprising that Mr George felt able to recommend a rate cut this week. It fuelled suspicions that he had succumbed to pressure from the Chancellor in recent days.

Last week, Mr George told the Treasury committee that he would recommend a rate cut only if "very confident" that inflation in two years' time would be below 2.5 per cent. However, in explaining Wednesday's rate cut, he said cuts would be recommended "if we are more confident than not that we will achieve the inflation objective".

Warming up for take-off: Sir Freddie Laker yesterday launched the Laker Vacations brochure in London. The holiday brochure is based on flights on his newly formed US flag carrier Laker Airways Inc. It flies between destinations in Florida (Orlando and Fort Lauderdale) and mainland Britain (Gatwick, Manchester and Prestwick)

BT ordered to pay portability costs

By Eric Reguly

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has endorsed phone number portability, which will allow customers to keep the same number when they change to competing companies, and ruled that British Telecom should bear most of the costs of implementing the system.

Don Cruickshank, the Director-General of Communications, said the report, published yesterday marks "a good day for customers". Britain is believed to be the only country in the world to put number portability in place.

Mr Cruickshank, however, accused BT of foot-dragging, claiming that it has had the technological ability for three years but resisted doing so, probably for fear of losing market share. He said: "I feel sorry that something customers have wanted so much has been delayed for so long."

BT welcomed the commission's findings. The company had feared it might have to bear all the costs — the MMC said it should absorb 70 per cent. BT also considered the report a moral victory in its ongoing turf war with Mr Cruickshank. It said the MMC has supported its argument that the Director-General alone "should not have discretion in deciding who should bear the costs".

The cable companies expect portability to lead to a sales bonanza. They considered a customer's previous inability to keep the same number when changing operators a significant competitive barrier. The cable industry, already winning about 50,000 customers a month from BT, said portability will increase that growth rate by 30 per cent.

BT estimated that it would cost about £220 million to introduce portability. About £40 million would be spent on reprogramming the network to make it technologically feasible. The rest would cover the administration expense of deleting a customer from the BT system and the "conveyance" cost of re-routing the call to a competitor's exchange.

Customers may actually be charged a fee to switch operators, but both BT and Oftel thought it would be minimal.

Pennington, page 23

Granada Forte cuts 'would save £100m'

By Eric Reguly

GRANADA said yesterday that it could boost Forte's profits by £100 million a year, with much of the gain coming through cost cutting, if its £3.3 billion hostile bid succeeds.

Granada said the extra income would come through redundancies, higher hotel prices and combining Granada's own purchasing power with Forte's.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, refused to be drawn on the number of redundancies under consideration, but suggested that management, not workers such as chefs and cleaners, would get hit hardest. "This is a very top heavy organisation," he said.

The profit improvement forecast was made in response to Forte's defence document, released on Friday, which predicted that pre-tax profits in the current year would rise 46 per cent to £185 million or 14.1p per share.

Granada also attacked Forte's plans to demerge the restaurants business, saying that they would lose their collective buying power.

Forte said it was becoming apparent that Mr Robinson is more of a cost cutter than a builder of companies. It said it would have to fire 4,000 to 5,000 employees, or about 10 per cent of its workforce, to save £100 million.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3671.6	(+9.2)
Yield	3.93%	
FT-SE A All share	1790.73	(+5.15)
Nikkei	19499.30	(+215.82)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5205.27	(-11.20)*
S&P Composite	618.86	(-2.83)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{3}{4}$%*	($5\frac{11}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$111\frac{1}{16}$*	($110\frac{27}{32}$)
Yield	6.07%*	(6.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{5}{8}$%	($6\frac{7}{16}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$111\frac{5}{16}$	($111\frac{1}{16}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5425*	(1.5340)
London:		
$	1.5421	(1.5325)
DM	2.2192	(2.2229)
FFr	7.6480	(7.7000)
SFr	1.7939	(1.8045)
Yen	156.51	(155.87)
£ Index	83.0	(83.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4408*	(1.4492)
FFr	4.9601*	(5.0057)
SFr	1.1635*	(1.1755)
Yen	101.40*	(101.65)
$ Index	94.1	(94.4)

Tokyo close Yen 101.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$17.45	($17.40)

GOLD

London close	$385.95	($387.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Running out

The CBI believes that the recovery in manufacturing could "run out of steam" in the new year. Although the findings of the latest monthly trends survey from the CBI were drawn before this week's quarter-point interest rate cut, business leaders believe that the cut will little if any difference. **Page 22**

Fewer calls

Sales of mobile phones in the festive season have failed to meet expectations in the industry, according to Cellnet, the operator 40 per cent owned by Securicor.
Page 26, Tempus 24

Angry BA to challenge Iberia rescue package

By Marianne Curphey and Harvey Elliott

THE European Commission has approved a £460 million rescue package to save Iberia, the Spanish state airline, from the threat of bankruptcy.

The proposals, which require the airline to dispose of its key Latin American assets, including nearly 90 per cent of its stake in Aerolinas Argentinas, was immediately denounced as "making a mockery of competition" by two of the UK's largest commerical airlines.

British Airways, which has been fighting state aid for Europe's airlines, said it was drawing up plans to challenge the decision. British Midland said the cash injection was "equivalent to our full-year turnover".

Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, said the Commission had agreed in principle to allow the Spanish Government to inject 87 billion pesetas into the airline. He said that a further £100 million could be granted in 1997.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA chairman, accused Mr Kinnock of buckling under political pressure from Spain. He said: "This decision is going to set back the moves towards an open market in Europe. It is plainly an absurd decision and one we will fight as strongly as we can."

This is not the first time Iberia has been helped by the EC. Since 1990 the airline has received £670 million in aid. Recent years have seen controversial Commission approval of cash injections to Air France, Greece's Olympic Airways, TAP Air Portugal and Ireland's Aer Lingus.

Asda to take rival vouchers

By Sarah Bagnall

ARCHIE NORMAN, chief executive of Asda, stepped up the battle for the lucrative family Christmas shop by offering to accept vouchers issued by any rival supermarket group in its 207 stores.

The news came as Asda revealed a sharp rise in like-for-like sales, outstripping all the competition, and a better than expected leap in half-year profits.

The decision to accept rival store vouchers follows Asda's decision last week to accept Tesco money-off vouchers in seven of its stores. Mr Norman said: "It's a bit of fun really. When we said we were doing it in seven of our stores, a lot of people were upset so we thought we would do it in all our stores this weekend."

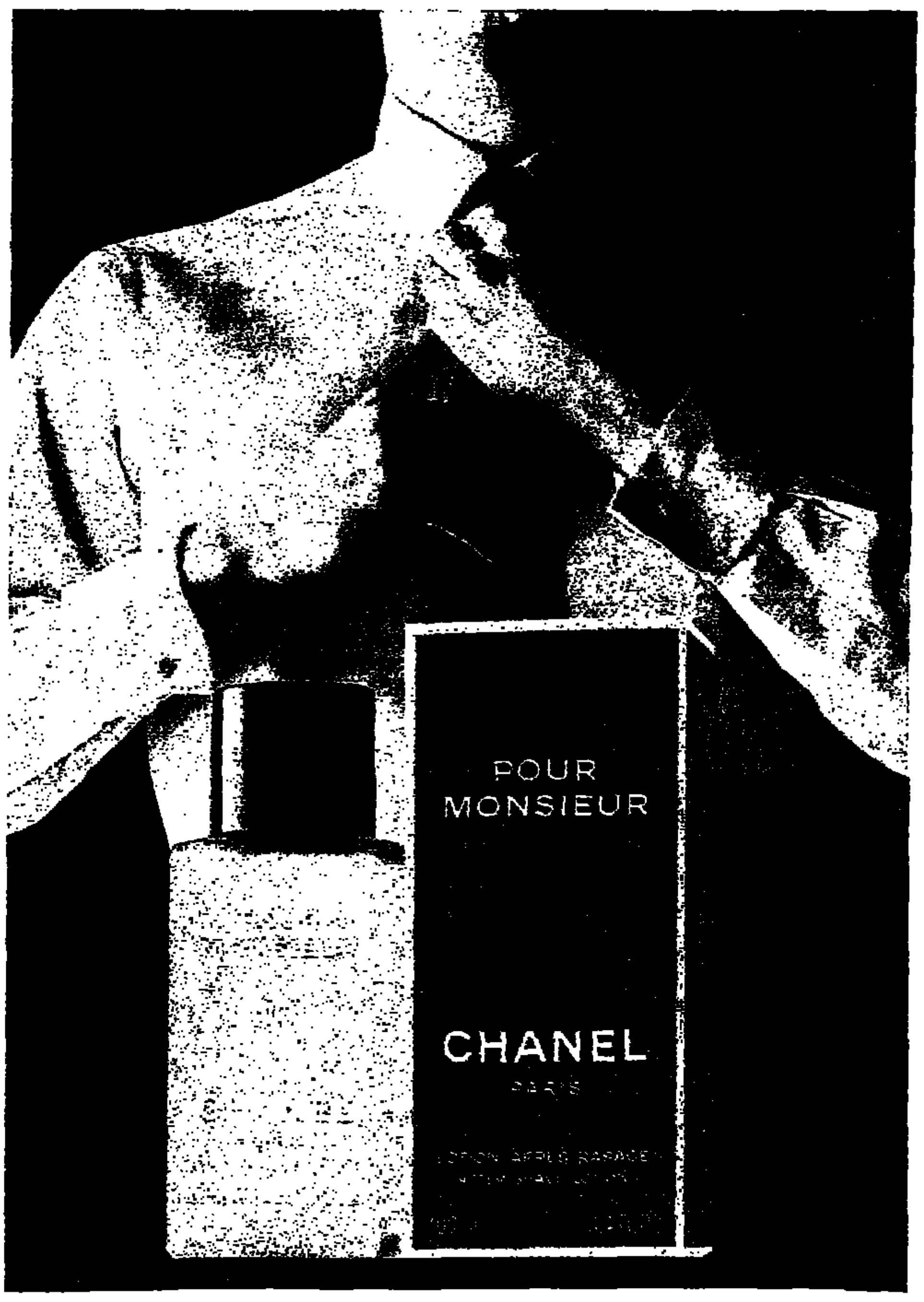
Sainsbury's said it had no intention of following Asda's lead. Mr Norman made his remarks as he unveiled a 27.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £138.3 million in the 28 weeks to November 11. The result was better than analysts expected and the shares rose 1p to 106½p. Turnover rose 14.5 per cent to £3 billion, while like-for-like sales rose 12.6 per cent, more than double the industry average. Of the increase, 9.7 percentage points were due to volume gains, helped by strong sales of bakery and produce.

Norman: Christmas fun

Mr Norman reiterated his view that the industry had limited growth prospects and, in order to drive sales forward, Asda was concentrating on developing its "points of difference", such as the George range of clothing. "It is our objective to exploit the unique Asda market position of low prices, large stores, outstanding in-store produced fresh food, and, of course, the wider range," he said.

The dividend, due on April 2, was lifted from 0.61p to 0.72p and is payable out of earnings of 3.38p a share (2.62p). Asda also announced that it had sold for £73 million four shopping centres it had inherited as part of the £88 million purchase of the half of Burwood House it did not already own.

Tempus, page 24



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

Recovery is under threat warns CBI

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders issued a warning today that the recovery in manufacturing could "run out of steam" as the new year starts with a predicted slowdown in output growth.

Although the findings of the monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry were drawn from companies before this week's quarter point cut in interest rates, business leaders believe that the cut was so small as to make little if any difference to manufacturers' views.

In a survey covering more than 1,000 manufacturing companies accounting for about half of the UK's manufactured exports, companies are predicting a further significant slowdown over the next month.

While 27 per cent of the companies surveyed expect output to increase during the next four months, 25 per cent say it is likely to decline. This positive balance of 2 per cent is well below the figure for November, when it stood at 9 per cent, and confirms that output expectations are now much less positive.

The 2 per cent balance is the lowest figure for output expectations since the beginning of 1993 and comes after a further weakening in demand this month. A balance of -10 per cent of companies surveyed say their total order books are below normal, continuing a slight but steady downward trend of -9 and -8 per cent in the previous months.

Exports are also continuing to wane, with overseas demand now much less buoyant than earlier in the year. A balance of -3 per cent of companies say their export order books are below normal. This is worse than the -1 per cent for the previous month, and marks the third consecutive month in which manufacturers have reported export demand to be below normal.

Further signs of weakening demand come in companies' stock levels which continue to be more than adequate to meet expected demand, with the balance of companies reporting this up from 18 to 22 per cent.

CBI leaders said that their full quarterly trends survey next month would allow business to assess fully the impact of the cut in interest rates.

But voicing the warning stating that the UK might now be "on the threshold of an output standstill", the CBI did not play down the gloomy impact of its latest study of industry. Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, says that the survey's results "show that the manufacturing recovery could run out of steam as we enter the new year".

DES JENSON

United front: Michael Kersey, left, chief executive of London Electricity, and Sir Bob Reid, the chairman.

London ready to resist power bid

By Christine Buckley

LONDON ELECTRICITY, which has yet to be bid for, insisted yesterday that it could remain viable as an independent company after the opening up of the energy market to full competition.

It denied that plans for a special dividend were designed to fend off a potential bid. The 100p-a-share payment, which will drain £200 million from the company's balance sheet, will take London's gearing to 60 per cent in the short term, although that will quickly fall to 50 per cent after one-off tax benefits. Such a level would enable the company to make further payments, although it says it is committed to pursuing other developments.

London, which has a joint services agreement with Thames Water, is preparing for the test scheme to sell gas for domestic customers in an open market, which starts in the South West next spring. It has joined with Total to form London Total Energy for the experiment, in which suppliers are expected to fight for custom.

The company is also waiting for power to start feeding through from Barking power station, which began operating in October. London has a £12 million equity stake in the power station, along with Eastern and Southern as part of the consortium that built it.

London, which reported an upturn in demand largely from commercial customers, raised pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 to £84.5 million (£42.8 million), although last year's figures were hit by a £33 million restructuring charge.

The interim dividend, due on January 26, will increase 21 per cent to 11.5p.

Three in final bid for plants

HYDRO-ELECTRIC, the Scottish electricity company, makes a final bid on Monday for the hydro plants hived off from the National Grid (Christine Buckley writes). It is competing with two American companies — Mission and Dominion — for the pumped storage businesses in Wales.

Eleven companies were in the first round of bidding. Hydro-Electric and one of the US companies each offered about £450 million. The other US company bid more than £600 million.

Roger Young, chief executive, said yesterday: "We will bid what we can afford and the business would fit in very well, but it would be in nobody's interests to overstep our limit."

Pre-tax profits at Hydro-Electric in the six months to September 30 climbed to £61.7 million from £34.9 million a year ago, which included the repayment of £18.8 million debt. The interim dividend, payable March 20, is raised 9.4 per cent to 4.75p.

Tempus, page 24

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.99
Austria Sch	16.70	15.20
Belgium Fr	48.87	44.57
Canada $	2.220	2.060
Cyprus Cyp£	0.750	0.695
Denmark Kr	9.26	8.46
Finland Mkk	7.25	6.60
France Fr	8.10	7.45
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	388.00	364.00
Hong Kong $	12.52	11.52
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lira	2558.00	2403.00
Japan Yen	170.50	154.50
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.651	2.421
New Zealand $	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.38
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.92	10.12
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	refer	82935.0
USA $	1.633	1.503

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUND-UP

Southern Water to launch buy-back

SHARES in Southern Water rose 11p to 669p after the company announced it was launching a buy-back. Southern said it will buy 9.7 per cent of shares at the current trading price before the end of March. The company also unveiled an 18 per cent rise in half-year profits to £84 million and an increased interim dividend of 9.8p, up 16 per cent. Group turnover was up 9 per cent to £207 million, while costs in the regulated business fell 2 per cent. Turnover in the non-regulated division increased 23 per cent to £26.2 million while profits were flat at £5.5 million.

Southern said it is launching an action plan to improve supplies and develop new reservoir capacity. The company will also spend an extra £50 million on improving customer service and has chosen to defer 1 per cent of the allowable price increase for water bills next year. The dividend is due on April 9 and Southern said it would increase the value of the final dividend to preserve its value following the buy-back.

Fisher chief under fire

STEPHEN WALLS, chairman of Albert Fisher, faced criticism from small shareholders at the annual meeting of the company yesterday. Concern centred on the increase in pay packages for executives of the food group despite a fall in earnings per share and pre-tax profit over the past year. Pre-tax profits fell 10.6 per cent to £31.1 million in the year to August, and earnings per share fell to 2.9p (3.3p). Mr Walls, however, received a 6.6 per cent pay rise to £388,000, including a bonus of £60,000 and an increased pensions contribution of £154,500. Lenny Pippin, chief executive (North America), received a 57 per cent pay rise to £396,000.

CINMan dispute brews

A dispute is expected to erupt today between trustees of the £17 billion coalminers' pension funds and British Coal at a meeting to finalise a buyer for CINMan, the company that looks after the two pension schemes on which more than 550,000 miners and staff have a claim. British Coal, which is in the process of selling its business operations, is understood to want to sell to Friends Provident, the British fund management group. Friends is believed to have bid twice as much for the two funds, the British Coal staff scheme and the Mineworkers Pension Scheme, as Sal Oppenheim, a German company: But trustees say Sal is more suitable.

Nadir ruling reserved

JUDGMENT was reserved in the House of Lords in an appeal concerning £650,000 of bail funds lodged by an associate of Asil Nadir, head of the Polly Peck group. The Master of the Rolls in the Court of Appeal shared the view of the Divisional Court and the trial judge that Ramadan Guney should forfeit £650,000 of the sum he put up for Mr Nadir, who jumped bail of £3.5 million and fled to northern Cyprus. The two other judges in the Court of Appeal decided that Mr Guney should not have to pay, because Mr Nadir had technically surrendered to custody in June 1992. Appeal was granted to the House of Lords, which considered the matter yesterday. A ruling is expected after Christmas.

Germans cool on EMU

GERMANS remain very sceptical about a single European currency, but many warm to the idea if Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain are left out of it, according to an Infas opinion poll for WDR television. It showed 45 per cent of Germans surveyed were against the European Union's planned economic and monetary union and 23 per cent for it. If only a few EU countries were to take part in a currency, 79 per cent of Germans thought their country should join it and only 13 per cent said Bonn should still reject it. "German views about the European monetary union are much more differentiated than originally thought," WDR said.

Record for Big Mac

McDONALD'S, the fast-food group operating in 89 countries, will end 1995 with record international growth, having opened 1,300 restaurants outside the United States, generating 60,000 new jobs. In 1994, McDonald's opened 751 non-US outlets. Jim Cantalupo, president and chief executive of McDonald's International, said: "This year, 20 per cent of our restaurant openings were in countries we were not even in five years ago." The company added 10 countries in 1995, including Qatar, Honduras and St. Maarten this week. The others are Estonia, Romania, Malta, Colombia, Jamaica, Slovakia and South Africa.

Car sales accelerate

WESTERN European car sales rose 3.6 per cent in November from last year, buoyed by higher sales in Germany, Britain and Italy, according to figures released by the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA). Provisional data showed western European new car sales totalled 953,300 in November. New car sales fell 9.3 per cent in France and 5.8 per cent in Spain. Portugal showed the biggest monthly drop — 24.5 per cent — while Finland jumped 31 per cent. Sales rose 6.9 per cent in Germany, 12.8 per cent in Britain and 12.5 per cent in Italy.

US unsold goods leap

STOCKS of unsold goods held by American businesses reported the largest increase in half a year in October, while sales fell, marking the 19th straight monthly rise in business inventories, the American Government said. Total business inventories rose 0.6 per cent in October to a seasonally adjusted $979.56 billion after a 0.5 per cent increase in September, the Commerce Department said. The continued pile-up in unsold goods came as businesses saw sales fall 0.4 per cent in October to $687.18 billion, the first drop since July. Sales rose a revised 0.3 per cent in September.

AMEC

Shareholder information update.
AMEC's response to Kvaerner's offers.
To hear your Board's advice call 0800 77 11 77.

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Adam & Company

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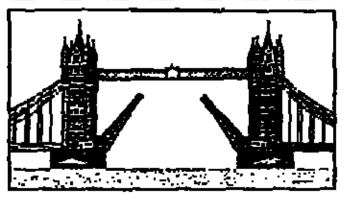
☐ MMC gives prizes to all ☐ Granada's £100m strategy for Forte ☐ Countdown to the Grid rebate

PENNINGTON



Playing the BT numbers game

☐ PERFECT competition is, it seems, upon us. Not being able to keep your telephone number free of charge when you switch telephone companies was "the most significant impediment to competition in the UK telephone market", according to the rival cable companies. The Consumers' Association rates this seemingly minor inconvenience as "the main barrier to competition in the telecommunications industry". The market was evidently pretty open, even before yesterday's judgment from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunciations, is too canny to fall for that one. BT's hard-done-by competitors may think they will have little else to complain about after yesterday's MMC ruling that BT should pay most of the costs of number portability, but the regulator is not about to do himself out of a job.

To Mr Cruickshank, the market will not be working well until BT has lost most of its business. Meanwhile, he must impose tough price controls on BT. These cuts are designed to protect consumers from the predations of BT's monopoly. In practice, however, they destroy any long-term incentive the average customer might have to switch suppliers. Price controls stop competition spreading naturally.

Mr Cruickshank's short-term actions will, therefore, continue to undermine his long-term priority. In frustration, he will doubtless think up ever more far-fetched schemes to give slices of BT's business to competitors by means other than consumer choice in a genuine free market.

The MMC's report is doubly significiant for the future course of this guerrilla war. First, it backs the "Austrian" economic approach that a monopolist *should* have to subsidise its competitors to take its business. That ideology assumes that BT's shareholders do not matter, because, in the Austrian worldview, there is no such thing as millions of ordinary people being sold natural monopoly utilities on the basis that as many citizens as possible should have a stake in such *steady* earners. The Austrians want to make sure the future is unsteady. They also assume that the utility's on-going customers benefit more from subsidies given to customers of competitors than the cost of the subsidies, even if they have to pay them.

On that issue, the Director-General has won. On the other dispute over the rules of war, BT claims at least a temporary victory. The MMC set guidelines for sharing costs, rather than allowing Mr Cruickshank discretion to fix what he felt like. But the MMC ducked the principle, deciding merely on the issue at hand. The regulator, having nothing better to do, will doubtless renew his challenge.

Robinson slashes out

☐ GRANADA'S riposte to Forte's defence document confirms weekend reports that Gerry Robinson and his merry men are confident they can hack £100 million worth of overheads out of the target company; presumably without destroying it. The document, entitled *Creating More Value*, bluntly declares that Forte's ongoing profits "can be improved by over £100 million per annum". The weekend reports that disclosed the £100 million strategy, also predicted where the axes would fall. Speculation had it that some £25 million to £30 million would be cut from Forte's payroll, while the purchasing budget would be reduced by up to £45 million. Central costs — embracing "layers of management" — would be slashed by £35 million.

Granada's camp totally disassociates itself with these figures — other than the £100 million. The message from Mr Robinson is that Forte is a "top heavy" organisation, a perception that augurs better for chefs than for "expensive management". Granada's chief executive emphasises that cost reductions will not merely relate to redundancies. Much is made of Granada/Forte's potential purchasing muscle. Mr Robinson also spoke yesterday of how Forte's yield could be improved by "more confident pricing".

In response to Forte's forecast of a 46 per cent rise in 1995-96 pre-tax profits to £185 million, Granada argues that in real terms this is some 10 per cent less than the levels achieved five years ago and represents a return on capital of just 7.2 per cent. Similarly, Granada predicts that Forte is "doubtless planning" to increase its dividend. Should the payment be raised by almost one-third this would still only match the level of five years ago.

Sir Rocco Forte retorts that Granada's £100 million claim lacks "credibility or supporting detail". Perhaps enough detail to suggest that Mr Robinson's natural instincts are not necessarily about building businesses.

Sensitivity at the CSO

☐ THE gentle number crunchers at the Central Statistical Office were behaving most peculiarly yesterday. They announced that the £50 electricity rebate after the National Grid float will not be counted as a price cut but as a transfer of income and listed solid reasons for the decision: the treatment as an income effect is consistent with European guidelines, the *rebate is not related to electricity consumption, it does not apply in* Scotland and Northern Ireland. Fair enough.

Why then did the CSO refuse point blank to say what the effect on inflation would have been if it had been treated as a price cut? Why did it say that it would be looking *very* carefully at the media's coverage of the decision? Why did it say that it did not deal in "what ifs" when, in the past, it has always been most obliging in computing, for example, the effect on the RPI of a 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates.

The mystery deepens when one recalls that the CSO answered exactly this question only a month ago. Then, it was perfectly happy to say that headline inflation would have been cut by 1 to 1.5 per cent early next year. The Treasury gaily gave out the same figure — yesterday.

Why this sudden cloak and dagger stuff from the gnomes of Great George Street? The answer is obvious. If the rebate had been counted as a price cut, inflation in the new year would have dropped sharply. But it would then have risen by the same amount in the first months of 1997 — just before a late election. It is rare that the arcane decisions of statisticians have a potential effect on the electoral fortunes of a government. The independent CSO has clearly been nothing less than scrupulous but its sudden burst of sensitivity unwisely gives ammunition to conspiracy theorists.

Southern defends low payout and NP bid

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC yesterday pledged continued support for a takeover by National Power, which has lapsed after a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), while turning in the lowest special payout to shareholders.

The company is returning about £150 million to investors with a special dividend of 50p a share. The previous day, East Midlands had set the highest of the dividend payouts at £1.20p a share.

John Deane, finance director, defended the level of payout.

"People have got used to very short-term actions and short-term value returns," he said. "We aim to deliver value over a longer period."

Southern also blamed its tax position for delivering a less generous return than by several of its peers. It also said that it had benefited from low gas prices to the tune of £5 million. With the company's power projects making their first contribution to results — serving up £9.8 million in the six months to September 30 — Mr Deane said that more than half of that amount was attributable to low gas prices.

The company is currently preparing an offensive to persuade the MMC that the bid by National Power, the UK's largest generator, should go ahead.

The bid, along with the offer by PowerGen for Midlands Electricity, was referred to the MMC by Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, last month in a move which surprised the industry.

The deadline for the decision is March 22, although there are signs that the Government would be keen for a speedier response ahead of the privatisation of Nuclear Electric, now known as British Energy, which is expected around the spring.

Geoffrey Wilson, chairman of Southern, said: "We believe that a link with National Power makes sense and we will aim to convince the MMC of that." So far the company has sent responses to a series of exhaustive questions with further communication expected to resume soon in the new year.

Southern said that it would distribute its holding in the National Grid, which became an independently floated company on Monday, to its shareholders on the basis of 66 grid shares for every 100 held in Southern.

The company had delayed an announcement on the distribution of its grid interest while the bid from National Power had been pending. The company also said it intended to consolidate its shares with an exchange of 93 new shares for every 100.

The interim dividend, payable January 29, was lifted 26 per cent to 10.5p.

Wilson: link makes sense

UK bids, page 26

Arjo faces claims of price-fixing

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

ARJO Wiggins Appleton, the paper manufacturing company, is facing court action in America over claims it has been indulging in price-fixing.

The company revealed yesterday that its US subsidiary, Appleton Papers, has been indicted by the US Department of Justice for conspiring to fix the price of thermal fax paper in 1991. Last year, a Japanese paper manufacturer, Kanzaki, pleaded guilty to similar charges and was fined $6 million.

The company said it believes that Appleton has done nothing wrong and will vigorously fight the charges. Arjo's share price slipped 5p to 156p. The maximum fine if it is found guilty is $10 million, although the company said that any ultimate liability would not have an adverse effect on the group's balance sheet and it is making no provision.

Shake-up knocks Daily Mail group

BY PAUL DURMAN

MUCH heavier than expected redundancy and reorganisation costs at Associated Newspapers, the *Daily Mail* publisher, dealt a hefty blow to profits at the stock market-quoted Daily Mail and General Trust.

Pre-tax profits for the year to October 1 tumbled from £92.1 million to £66.8 million. Like all newspaper groups, DM&GT has had to meet sharply higher paper costs, which added nearly £20 million to its newsprint bill.

But the City was surprised by the £21.8 million provision the company made to cover reorganisation. Although some of this was at the *Evening Post*, Nottingham, and the Euromoney financial publishing arm, the bulk stemmed from changes at the Associated Newspapers flagship. Associated made 150 to 200 administrative staff redundant a few months ago, and is believed to have run up further costs "buying out" various staff benefits. DM&GT said it had not cut editorial, circulation or advertising budgets.

David Forster at Merrill Lynch expects the August price increases of the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday* to add £28 million to revenues. Although DM&GT faces a full year of higher paper costs, he is forecasting profits to rebound to £111 million this year.

Start-up costs, mainly from Channel One, the London cable-TV operation, were £10 million higher than the previous year. Peter Williams, DM&GT finance director, said 320,000 subscribers have access to Channel One, and a recent survey suggested that 18 per cent of them were watching it. The company will pay an increased final dividend of 13.5p on February 16. This will lift the total payout to 17.8p a share.

Companies get help on derivatives

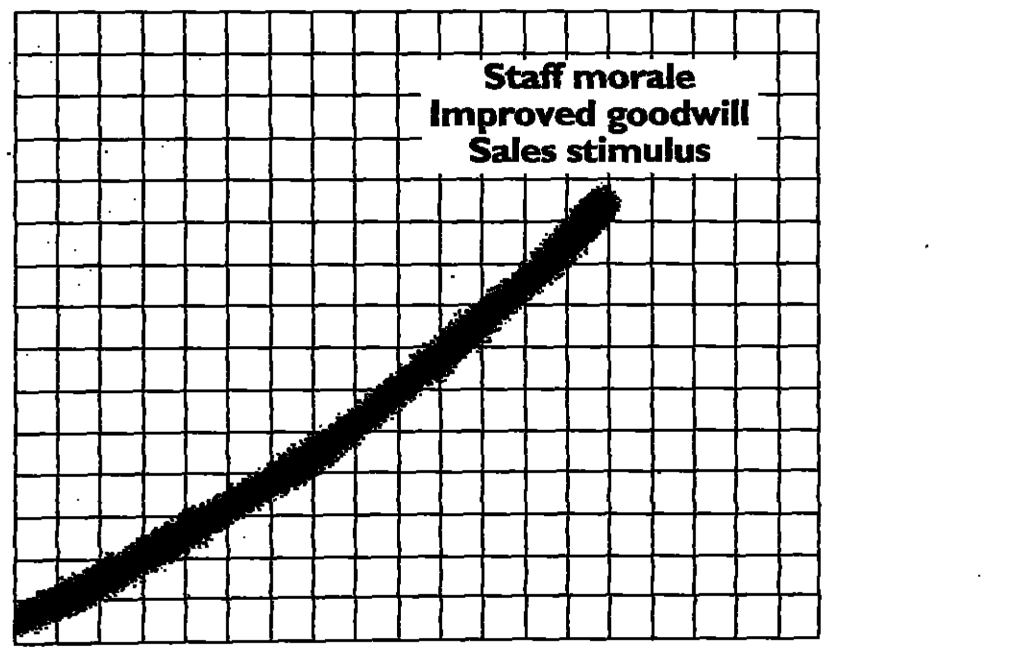
BY ROBERT MILLER

CONCERN that risks associated with speculative and often volatile derivative investments are not understood by company directors and senior managers has led to a new set of guidelines being published by the Futures and Options Association (FOA).

The FOA, with backing from other trade bodies, including the British Bankers Association and the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, has also established a panel of specialists to advise companies on the risk controls that they should put in place when using derivatives.

The FOA guidelines say that companies intending to use derivatives should have a clear policy on futures and options and should provide "effective supervision".

Several well-known companies have lost money using instruments such as interest rate and currency swaps.



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What's more, ensuring that your accounts are delivered on time is the personal responsibility of the company's directors. Not just your finance director. And certainly not your accountant.

Filing on time makes sound business sense. Other companies may soon lose confidence in yours if your records aren't up to date.

Examples of some deadlines for existing private limited companies are shown below.

Company Accounting Reference Date	Deadline for delivery to Companies House (Private Companies)
28 February 1995	28 December 1995
31 March 1995	31 January 1996
30 April 1995	29 February 1996

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COMPANIES HOUSE

LF/TMS/3

STOCK MARKET **MICHAEL CLARK**

Shares race to record high but then take a tumble

SHARE prices soared to record levels on confirmation of the cut in German interest rates and the news that inflation was on the way down.

This latest boost to the Chancellor's economic policy came just 24 hours after bank base rates were trimmed a quarter point to 6.5 per cent and home loans fell to their lowest levels for 30 years.

But the City's euphoria proved short lived. After climbing 24 points to a best ever 3.686.5, the FT-SE 100 index reduced its lead to close 9.2 up at 3,671.6.

An opening fall in the Dow Jones average on Wall Street, having hit its 69th record closing high the night before, unsettled investors. The December series of futures and options are due to expire later today and it was inevitable that some profit taking would develop ahead of the event.

But investors remain worried about the economy. Despite the Chancellor's optimistic view of the economy, there is overall scepticism about the 3 per cent growth forecast and the market is clearly worried by the seemingly never-ending stream of profit warnings from leading companies.

Receiving end: phone portability could cost BT £150 million

BT has been told by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission it will have to contribute towards the cost of customers keeping their existing number when they switch to another phone company. The MMC says BT will have to pay about 70 per cent of the cost amounting to £150 million over the next five years. The other phone companies will have to pay the rest. It had been feared that BT costs might have been higher.

BT ended the session 5½p dearer at 348½p, while **Cable and Wireless** firmed 2p to 450p, **Nynex Cable** 4p to 124p, **General Cable** 4p to 197p, and **TeleWest** 3p to 165p.

Half-year figures from Asda exceeded even the most optimistic forecasts with the group weighing in with a 27 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £138.3 million. The group has managed to outperform all its major rivals with like-for-like sales up almost 13 per cent which boosted market share from 9.7 per cent to 10.1 per cent. Unlike other supermarket chains it also recorded a small improvement in operating margins. Shareholders were rewarded with an 18 per cent increase in the payout to 0.72p. Brokers expect Asda to continue to increase market share and have pencilled in a figure of £300 million for the year end. News of Asda's increase in market share came as bad news for the rest of the supermarket operators. There were setbacks for **Sainsbury**, down 4p at 375p, **Argyll**, the Safeway chain, 2¼p to 107¾p and **Tesco** 3p to 301p. **Kwik Save**, which fell sharply on Wednesday after a profits warning, regained its poise to finish all-square at 519p.

Inchape appears to be enjoying a revival in fortunes since dropping out of the top 100 companies last week following the recent collapse in its share price. The shares stood at 202p when they lost their role as a constituent of the FT-SE, but ended the session another 12p higher at 230p after denying plans to sell Bain Hogg, its insurance broking arm.

Talk of a bid drove **Sedgwick Group**, the insurance broker, 8p higher at 124p. There has been persistent speculation in the City of a possible merger with **Willis Corroon** 4½p dearer at 146p.

Elsewhere in the financial sector, **Bank of Scotland**, up 12p at 290p, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, 10p better at 586p, are again being tipped as potential takeover targets. **Guardian Royal Exchange** continues to dream of a bid from BAT Industries with the price up 6p at 272p. **BAT** finished 5p lower at 566p.

Investors had to contend with a whole clutch of figures from the utilities. **Southern Water** rounded off the reporting season for the water companies with first-half figures at the top end of forecasts. Pre-tax profits ran out at £83.7 million. The news that the group is to proceed with its share buy-back programme lifted the price 9p to 667p.

The market gave a lukewarm reception to half year figures from **Scottish Hydro** with brokers expressing concern about the growing level of debt. It has borrowed a further £450 million to finance the acquisition of the former pumped storage arm of the National Grid. The shares finished 2p easier at 359p.

Southern Electric is paying a special dividend of 50p after the referral of National Power's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This is in addition to a 27 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 10.5p and a 93-for-100 share consolidation. Pre-tax profits at the half-way stage were up from £106.8 million to £127. 8 million. But the shares ended the session down 11p at 917p.

London Electricity also plans to hand out the money to shareholders in the shape of a special 100p dividend. The news coincided with half-year figures showing pre-tax profits slightly down on last year's £85.3 million leaving the shares 16p lower at 678p.

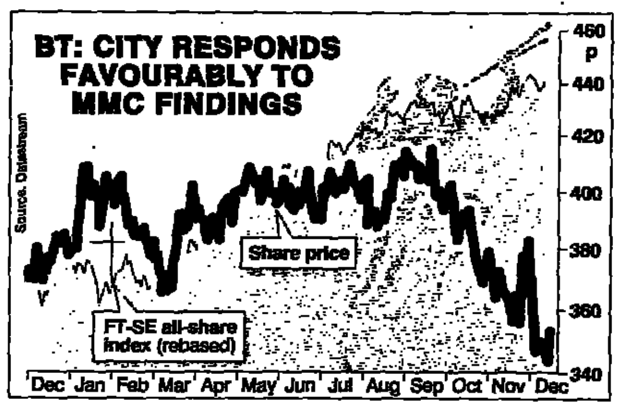
Soaring newsprint prices and start-up costs punched a £30 million hole in **Daily Mail & General Trust's** full-year figures and left pre-tax profits down at £66.8 million compared with £92.1 million last time. The group promised a return to growth in the current year but the shares closed 5p off at £12.98.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Despite an element of profit taking later in the day, prices managed to close with some healthy gains. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished £⁵⁄₁₆ better at £110⅞.

There was further evidence of a steepening in the yield curve with demand directed at issues within the five to nine year range. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 rose £¼ to £103⁹⁄₃₂, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⁹⁄₃₂ better at £105⁵⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were under pressure in morning trading still facing the cross currents of triple witching. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was down 11.20 points at 5,205.27.

After trading just above their low of 138p, Lloyd Thompson shares are enjoying a revival. The price rose 10p to 164p yesterday stretching its two-day lead to 22p. Two directors yesterday picked up 150,000 share. The trustees of the company's share ownership have also bought a further 500,000.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5205.27 (-11.20)
S&P Composite	618.86 (-2.83)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	19499.30 (+215.82)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	9912.84 (-9.04)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	478.70 (+0.67)

Sydney:

AO	2222.70 (-2.90)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2285.85 (+8.05)

Singapore:

Straits	2204.66 (+32.61)

Brussels:

General	8320.84 (+20.44)

Paris:

CAC-40	1874.98 (+41.22)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	709.60 (-0.30)

London:

FT 30	2656.4 (+7.4)
FT 100	3671.6 (+9.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3961.7 (+19.4)
FT-SE-A 350	1817.9 (+5.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1474.46 (+3.88)
FT A All-Share	1790.73 (+5.15)
FT Non Financials	1884.7 (+5.66)
FT Fixed Interest	114.91 (+0.09)
FT Govt Secs	96.05 (+0.08)
Bargains	27773
SEAQ Volume	868.4m
USM (Datastrm)	190.39 (-1.11)
US$	1.5393 (+0.0066)
German Mark	2.2197 (-0.0022)
Exchange Index	83.0 (Same)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	n/a
£:SDR	1.0342
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc C (100)	96½	- 1½
Arion Props	9	...
BZW Equities (306)	303	...
Benfield & Rea	103	...
CMG (290)	331	...
Cash Converters Int	25	- 1
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cornworth (150)	151	...
Cox Insurance	110	...
East Surrey NV	448	...
Fins Tech Tst (100)	102	...
Gardner (L)	130	...
Geared Income C	98	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	203	...
Jasmin	85	...
London Town	80	...
Martin Curr Jpn	98	+ ½
Martin Curr Jpn Wts	35	+ 2
National Grid (204)	204½	- 5
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	234	+ 1
Pet City	360	- 5
Revelation Picc	100	...
Trocadero	44	+ 3
Vero Group	272	+ 2
Wilmington	64	+ 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leis n/p (34)	7	...
Dunloe Hse n/p	2	...
Roxspur n/p (3)	¼	...
TBI n/p (50)	3	...
The TV Crp n/p (97)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Forward Gp	683p (+58p)
Inchcape	230p (+12p)
Ascot Hldgs	265p (+13p)
Ferguson Intl	220p (+10p)
Dalgety	410p (+17p)
Delphi	341p (+14p)
Regent Inns	654p (+25p)

FALLS:

Phonelink	200p (-25p)
Unipalm	650p (-50p)
REXAM	347p (-9p)
Security Serv	890p (-20p)
Dorling Kind	537p (-12p)
Securicor 'A'	870p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Per ardua ad Asda

ASDA has a tendency to aim high and then overshoot its target. Its latest goal of lifting like-for-like sales by between 5 and 10 per cent a year looks ambitious and curiously out of step with its own view of the industry.

Archie Norman, Asda's chief executive, paints a picture of slow growth and worsening price competition, a trend that is forcing food retailers to look to service gimmicks and loyalty cards in their efforts to lift sales.

Asda has managed to outperform the competition for each of the last 38 months. The 12.6 per cent rise in underlying sales in the 28 weeks to November 11 is more than double the industry average and far ahead of the nearest rival, Tesco, which notched up a 6 per cent like-for-like advance in the 24 weeks to August 12. Asda is still riding high on the productivity loop — lower prices stimulating increased sales, which reduce cost ratios and in turn lead to improved profits enabling lower prices.

Worries that this wheel will soon stop turning are premature. Asda's superstores are bigger than the average outlet and more floorspace puts the group in pole position to make the most of the move into higher-margin, non-food retailing. Added to that development are cost benefits from Asda's £70 million investment in new systems.

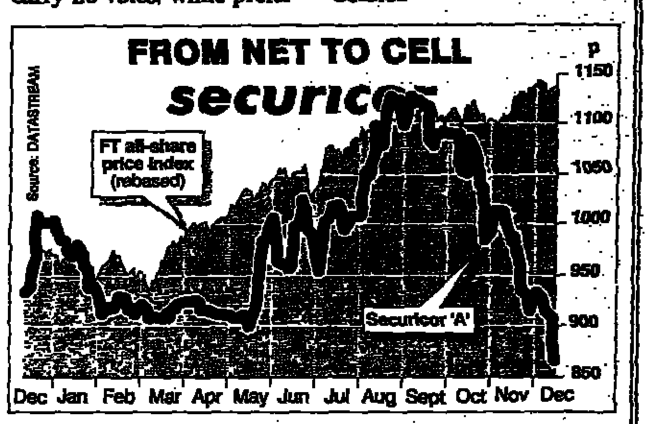
Management concerns are also troubling investors, including rumours that Mr Norman might choose to abandon his high profile role of food industry boss for the obscurity of the Tory back benches. These are overplayed; the Asda management is strong enough to carry on should their leader choose to tilt at windmills in Westminster.

Securicor

THE City cannot make up its mind how to value Securicor. Hitherto, analysts have focused on the group's 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, which, in the past year, produced 70 per cent of the profit and assumed that manned guarding and distribution were the icing on the cake.

However, the security business is looking distinctly less sweet as new entrants, such as Rentokil, increase competition and depress margins. More important, the Government has blocked the sale of Securicor's Cellnet interest to BT. With the obvious buyer ruled out, questions must begin to be asked whether the group's 40 per cent stake is still worth the £1.5 billion claimed by optimists.

Securicor would still like to realise its investment. A disposal would return value to shareholders in the form of a special dividend, allow further investment in distribution and prisons and provide the funds to sort out the company's confusing and archaic share structure which restricts voting to ordinary shareholders. The more widely traded "A" shares carry no votes, while preference shareholders can also participate in ordinary dividends. A flotation of the Cellnet stake is still a possibility but Securicor should act quickly. Cellnet is confined to the UK, the most mature market for mobile phones, and the continuing success of Orange will depress further the value of Cellnet.



Scottish Hydro

SCOTTISH Hydro-Electric could be left waiting at the altar next week. First Hydro, the pumped storage business which used to be a part of the National Grid, is expected to reject the modest local boy in favour of an American waving lots of cash.

Hydro-Electric is anxious to secure its position ahead of the free-for-all energy market due to arrive in 1998. With the the race for First Hydro all but lost, the question for the Scots is where will it find an alternative investment. The generator is alone among the four main power-producing companies in rejecting the option of a bid for a regional electricity company.

Hydro, which last year defied the electricity regulator over pricing and was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has indicated a preference for buying up individual assets rather than whole electricity companies. The company is keener on supply than distribution and such a strategy sits more comfortably in its balance sheet.

Meanwhile talks with British Gas continue over a possible joint development of a power station. Hydro already has such a joint venture with Norweb.

Overseas projects open other possibilities although Hydro will do better to consolidate the customer base in England and Wales which is showing strong signs of growth.

M&G

M&G prides itself on its long-term approach to investment but the company seems to believe there is a risk that its own fund managers might take a short-term view of their jobs. Administrative costs soared during the past year, in large part due to a £9 million charge relating to reorganisation and investment in new technology, but within the overall increase the company admitted to an 8 per cent rise in staff costs.

M&G blamed the 5 per cent real increase in the salary bill on the need to bring fund manager salaries up to industry standards. The company pointed to the bid rumours in the sector which have sent the shares of fund management companies rocketing in the hope that big banks will make ludicrously expensive offers. That in turn leads to the worry that the main assets of the companies may go to rival companies.

The bids have so far failed to emerge and share prices are off their peaks but M&G is still looking dear, trading on a forward multiple of 20 times compared with 17.5 for rival pension fund manager MAM. In a difficult market, M&G is making gains in the fight for retail business which over the longer term should grow rapidly. Even so, M&G's price should slip back further.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	888-880	Mar	1013-1012
Mar	932-931	May	1026-1024
May	953-951	Jul	unq
Jul	971-970	Sep	—
Sep	989-988		
Dec	1003-1001	Volume:	3023

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2295-2290	Sep	1715-1714
Mar	1930-1929	Nov	1700-1670
May	1806-1805	Jan	1720-1680
Jul	1750-1740	Volume:	8345

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	306.0-05.2
Spot: 381.5		Dec	300.3-98.7
Mar	350.5-50.0	Mar	298.5-95.8
May	341.0-40.5	May	298.6-95.7
Aug	332.7-31.6	Volume:	2174

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 13

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	112.71	116.76	119.26
(+/-)	+5.34	-1.59	-2.31
Eng/Wales:	112.71	118.22	117.52
(+/-)	+5.34	-1.56	-3.12
(%)	+25.0	n/c	-35.0
Scotland:	unq	111.79	126.59
(+/-)	...	-2.15	+0.59
(%)	—	-9.0	-27.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.85	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.95	+0.20
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.45	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.85	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.55	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 175 (+5)	O: 177 (+5)
Gasoil EEC	175 (+3)	177 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Jan	174 (+3)	176 (+3)
Non EEC 1H Feb	169 (+2)	171 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	102 (n/c)	104 (-1)
Naphtha	159 (-1)	161 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	169.50-70.00	Apr	157.75-58.00
Feb	165.50-65.75	May	155.75-56.00
Mar	161.50-62.00	Vol:	23232

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.94-17.96	Apr	16.86-16.90
Feb	17.45-17.46	May	n/a
Mar	17.12-17.15	Vol:	37397

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	124.00	Jan	114.75
Mar	125.90	Mar	116.90
May	127.85	May	118.65
Jul	129.95	Sep	109.50
Sep	112.75	Nov	111.30
Volume:	496	Volume:	50

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	256.0	252.5
May	unq	285.0
	Volume:	107

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 113.25-113.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1645	1645	1645
Jan 96	1655	1600	1608
Feb 96	1600	1570	1575
Apr 96	1620	1560	1560
Vol: 208 lots		Open Interest:	3712

Index 1644 +13

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	3005.0-3007.0	2732.0-2733.0	1693750
Lead ($/tonne)	731.00-731.50	728.00-729.00	252350
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1031.5-1032.0	1056.5-1057.5	438150
Tin ($/tonne)	6385.0-6390.0	6375.0-6380.0	14615
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1685.0-1685.5	1710.0-1711.0	1187200
Nickel ($/tonne)	8210.0-8230.0	8330.0-8335.0	59880

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom.	500	21½	36½	43½	5½	13	21½
(*513)	550	3	13½	20	38	42	50
Argyll	300	17	28½	32½	3	9	15
(*312½)	330	3	13½	17	19	24½	31
ASDA	100	9	13	16	1½	5	6½
(*107)	110	3½	7½	11	6	9½	11
Boots	550	43	57½	65½	2	7	14
(*588)	600	10	25½	34	19	25½	35
Br Airways	460	22½	36	44	6	12	19½
(*474½)	500	4	16	23½	28	33	40
BP	500	47	55	61	0½	5	10
(*543½)	550	10	21½	29	13	22½	28
Br Steel	140	15	20	23½	0½	3	6
(*153½)	160	2½	8½	11	8	11	16
C & W	420	35	48½	56½	4	10½	16½
(*449)	460	11½	26	35	19½	27	34
CU	600	45½	58	64½	4	17½	22
(*638½)	650	13	29	38	22	42½	47
ICI	700	46	57½	66½	4	19½	24
(*738)	750	14	28½	39½	22½	44½	49
Kingfshr.	500	30½	45½	50½	4½	16½	24
(*523)	550	6	19½	25½	30½	43	50½
Land Sec.	600	19	34½	41½	6	13	24½
(*609)	650	1½	11	16½	41	42	54½
M & S	420	32	42½	48½	1½	5	10½
(*448½)	460	6½	18	24½	15½	21	27½
Nat West	650	32	44½	56½	7	28	35½
(*669)	700	8½	21	33½	32½	57	63½
Sainsbury	360	19½	30	34½	3	8½	15½
(*374)	390	4	14	19	18	22½	30½
Shell	850	22	39½	47	8½	23½	28½
(*860)	900	3	15½	24	40½	53½	57½
Smkl Bch.	650	52½	66	79½	2½	10	16½
(*696½)	700	16½	34½	49½	17	29	36
Storehse	330	21	30	37½	3½	9	13½
(*344½)	360	5	14½	21½	18	23½	28
Trafalgar	25	4	7	7½	1½	4	5
(*26½)	30	2	5	5½	4½	7	8
Unilever	1300	40	64	79	9½	29½	38½
(*1324½)	1350	12½	34½	52	33	54½	63½
Zeneca	1250	46½	80½	103½	23	52½	67
(*1267½)	1300	22½	55½	78½	49	79	93
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met.	420	37	46	54	8	11½	17½
(*453½)	460	13½	24½	33	26½	30½	36½
Ladbroke	140	15½	19	25	6½	12	14
(*147½)	160	6½	11½	16½	18	23	25½
Utd Bisc	240	22½	26½	30	5	10	12½
(*255)	260	11	16	20	13	20	22½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	21	33½	41	4½	10½	16½
(*474)	500	3	13	20½	27	31	36
Thames W	550	27	44½	52½	7	15	29½
(*566½)	600	6	22	29	35½	41½	57
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	32½	40	48	12	25½	33½
(*564½)	600	11	17½	26½	41½	55½	63
BTR	300	28	30½	35	2	7	9
(*321½)	330	9	12½	19	13	21½	23½
Br Aero	750	62	75½	94½	12	25	32½
(*790)	800	32	48	67½	32	47	55½
Br Telcm	330	21	28	35	6	8½	16
(*348½)	360	6½	14	19½	23½	24½	31½
Cadbury	550	31	36½	47	19½	33	38
(*551½)	600	11½	17½	28	51	65	69
Guinness	460	21	30	36	10	20½	24
(*466½)	500	5½	13	18½	34½	45	48
GEC	300	29	35	40	2	4½	8½
(*327)	330	9½	16	21½	13	15½	21½
Hanson	180	14	15½	18	3	4½	6½
(*190)	191	7	—	—	8	—	—
LASMO	160	17	20½	25½	3	6	8
(*172)	180	6½	10	15	11½	14½	17½
Lucas	160	21	25	28	1½	4	5½
(*177½)	180	8½	13	17	8	11	13
Pilkingtn	191	19½	23½	27	3½	5	9
(*203)	210	8	12½	17½	12½	13½	18
Prudential	420	33	38	46½	8½	18	23
(*439)	460	13½	19½	27½	28½	39½	44
Redland	360	27½	36½	40½	6½	15	18
(*377)	390	12	20½	25	21	31	34
R-Royce	160	21	23	27½	1½	5	6½
(*177½)	180	8	11	16½	8½	13½	15
Tesco	300	13½	18	22½	10½	15½	18½
(*300)	330	3	6½	11	31	35	37½
Vodafone	200	18	24½	28	4½	8	10
(*210½)	220	7½	14	18	14½	17½	19½
Williams	300	28½	33½	35½	1½	6	8
(*323)	330	9	14½	18	12	20	22

FT-SE INDEX (*3674½)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Dec	125	75	27½	1	1	1
Jan	148	109	73½	44½	24½	11½
Feb	170	132½	100	71	48½	31½
Mar	188	150½	119	90	66	47
Jun	—	196	—	139½	—	92½
Puts						
Dec	1	1	2	28	78	128
Jan	15½	26	41	63½	99½	136
Feb	25½	38	55½	78½	107½	143½
Mar	41	54	72½	95	133	157
Jun	—	102	—	144½	—	198½

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	600	38½	57	64½	0	16½	27½
(*637)	650	4½	27½	38	16	41½	52
Amstrad	200	20	26	32½	0	4	6½
(*219½)	220	3	14	21	3½	12	14½
Barclays	750	32	55	65	1	21½	31
(*779)	800	3	27	39½	22	47½	56½
Blue Circ	330	6	20½	26	3	12½	21½
(*333)	360	0	8	13	27	31	40
Br Gas	220	10½	20½	24½	1	6½	11½
(*229½)	240	0½	10½	14½	11½	16½	22
Dixons	390	19½	35½	44½	1	12½	16
(*408½)	420	1½	19½	29	13½	25	30½
Forte	300	29½	37	42	0	4	7½
(*329)	330	4½	17	21	4½	14½	19½
Tarmac	100	2	9½	11½	1	6	9
(*101½)	110	0	5	7	8½	12	15½
Hillsdown	160	4½	10½	12½	1	6	11½
(*163)	180	0	4	4½	17	18½	25½
Lonrho	160	16½	20	25	0	2½	5
(*176½)	180	1½	8	14	4½	11½	14
Sears	100	1½	6	7½	1½	4½	6½
(*100)	110	0	2½	3½	10	11	13
Thm Emi	1500	92½	126	162	0	20½	32
(*1590½)	1600	11½	66½	102½	19	59	71
Tomkins	260	22½	28½	35	0	4	7
(*283)	280	5½	15½	22½	4	11	14½
TSB	390	21	26	31	0	18	19½
(*408½)	420	1½	7	13½	12	34	37
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo Wel	850	57½	75	87½	4½	20	28½
(*898½)	900	24½	43½	59½	19½	41½	50½
HSBC	1000	33½	62	76½	22	53½	63½
(*1005)	1050	13	39½	55	52	83	92½
Reuter	600	21½	39	53½	13½	28½	34½
(*605½)	650	4½	17½	31½	46½	57	63
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins	360	31½	42	48	2	15	19½
(*386)	390	13	25	32	12	29½	34½
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	260	4½	8½	10	0½	0½	0½
(*264)	280	0	0	0	16	16	16
	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eastern Gp	950	29	39	—	0½	0½	—
(*974)	1000	0	0	—	30½	30	—
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	420	26½	39	50	0	5	14½
(*446)	460	1	16	27½	14½	22	33½
Scot Pwr	360	6½	16	24½	2½	14½	16½
(*363½)	390	0	5½	11½	26½	33½	35

December 14, 1995 Tot: 35548 Call: 18303 Put: 17245 FT-SE Call: 6524 Put: 7781

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 84270	Dec 95	3669.0	3695.0	3663.0	3675.0	15894
	Mar 96	3692.0	3721.0	3690.0	3701.0	15084
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3658	Dec 95	3960.0	3960.0	3960.0	3960.0	17
	Mar 96	3995.0	3995.0	3995.0	3995.0	17
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 403688	Dec 95	93.50	93.51	93.48	93.50	7314
	Mar 96	93.82	93.87	93.81	93.83	16498
	Jun 96	93.97	94.05	93.97	94.02	12949
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95				94.21	0
	Mar 96				94.60	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 997534	Dec 95	96.10	96.25	96.10	96.15	62054
	Mar 96	96.39	96.50	96.39	96.45	60484
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 151448	Dec 95	111-10	111-11	111-06	111-10	1150
	Mar 96	110-22	111-03	110-20	110-28	37040
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	121.89	121.96	121.83	121.95	1053
	Jun 96	120.41	120.41	120.41	120.49	20
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 209237	Mar 96	98.89	99.16	98.86	99.09	115481
	Jun 96	98.29	98.31	98.29	98.39	407
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20870	Dec 95	94.62	94.71	94.61	94.68	1046
	Mar 96	94.81	94.93	94.81	94.89	1096
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 53321	Dec 95	97.95	98.16	97.95	98.13	5705
	Mar 96	98.18	98.30	98.14	98.29	13570
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 49250	Mar 96	106.47	106.64	105.22	105.43	53121
	Jun 96	105.35	105.35	104.90	105.03	101

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6⁵⁄₁₆

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⁵⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth 6⁵⁄₁₆ . Sell: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth: 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⁷⁄₁₆-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⁹⁄₃₂	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6⁷⁄₃₂-6⁵⁄₃₂	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¹⁵⁄₃₂-6¹³⁄₃₂	6¹³⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6⅜-6⅜	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6¼-6³⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6¹⁵⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6¹³⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6⅞-6⅜	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6¼-6³⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 6½, close 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6⁷⁄₁₆	n/a	6⅜	6¼	6³⁄₁₆
Sterling CDs:	6¹⁵⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6¹³⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6¹¹⁄₃₂	6⁹⁄₃₂-6⁷⁄₃₂	6³⁄₁₆-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.83	n/a	5.68	5.55	5.44
Building Society CDs:	6¹⁵⁄₃₂-6¹³⁄₃₂	6¹¹⁄₃₂-6⁹⁄₃₂	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¼	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¹³⁄₁₆-5⅝	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5¹³⁄₁₆-5⅝	5⅝-5½	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅞	4⅛-4	3¹⁵⁄₁₆-3¹³⁄₁₆	3⅞-3¾	4½-3½
French Franc:	5⅞-5⅝	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5½-4½
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-1¹⁵⁄₁₆	2⅛-2¹⁄₁₆	2⅛-2	2⅛-1¹⁵⁄₁₆	2½-1½
Yen:	¹⁄₁₆-⅛	¹⁄₁₆-¼	½-¼	½-¼	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $386.00-386.30 **Close:** $385.70-386.20 **High:** $386.05-386.55
Low: $385.20-385.70 **AM:** $385.70 **PM:** $385.70

Krugerrand: $385.75-387.75 (£250.00-252.00)

Platinum: $409.85 (£266.50) **Silver:** $5.15 (£3.345) **Palladium:** $133.25 (£86.65)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 14	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4829-2.4952	2.4829-2.4861	½-⅜pr	1⅛-1⅜pr
Brussels	45.56-45.84	45.56-45.67	12-9pr	31-26pr
Copenhagen	8.5910-8.6410	8.5910-8.6130	1½-¾pr	3½-2½pr
Dublin	0.9675-0.9703	0.9676-0.9701	10-6pr	23-17pr
Frankfurt	2.2177-2.2284	2.2177-2.2208	½-⅜pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Lisbon	232.41-234.01	232.41-233.03	32-59ds	131-175ds
Madrid	188.64-189.30	188.84-189.13	42-53ds	130-175ds
Milan	2448.6-2465.6	2461.6-2465.6	7-9ds	23-26ds
Montreal	2.1116-2.1305	2.1175-2.1205	0.13-0.05pr	0.21-0.09pr
New York	1.5356-1.5426	1.5416-1.5426	0.09-0.07pr	0.25-0.22pr
Oslo	9.7950-9.8430	9.7990-9.8140	1-½pr	3-2½pr
Paris	7.6410-7.6950	7.6410-7.6550	½-⅛pr	1½-1¼pr
Stockholm	10.219-10.288	10.228-10.251	⅛-½ds	½-¾ds
Tokyo	155.84-156.64	156.37-156.64	½-⅜pr	2½-2½pr
Vienna	15.603-15.682	15.603-15.630	¾-½pr	1-½pr
Zurich	1.7925-1.8077	1.7925-1.7953	½-⅜pr	1-1¼ds

Source: Extel — Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3497-1.3506
Austria	10.13-10.14
Belgium (Com)	29.62-29.63
Canada	1.3744-1.3749
Denmark	5.5831-5.5851
France	4.9650-4.9700
Germany	1.4400-1.4410
Hong Kong	7.7346-7.7356
Ireland	1.5894-1.5914
Italy	1595.60-1597.70
Japan	101.35-101.45
Malaysia	2.5415-2.5425
Netherlands	1.6130-1.6140
Norway	6.3555-6.3575
Portugal	150.97-151.07
Singapore	1.4160-1.4170
Spain	122.53-122.61
Sweden	6.6490-6.6590
Switzerland	1.1640-1.1650

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5397-1.5423
Australia dollar	2.0792-2.0820
Bahrain dinar	0.5725-0.5845
Brazil real*	1.4939-1.4981
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7025-0.7125
Finland markka	6.6225-6.7385
Greece drachma	365.25-372.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.9136-11.9229
India rupee	53.17-54.13
Indonesia rupiah	3474.00-3542.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4555-0.4655
Malaysia ringgit	3.9139-3.9180
New Zealand dollar	2.3558-2.3591
Pakistan rupee	52.62 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6925-5.8185
Singapore dollar	2.1799-2.1829
S Africa rand (com)	5.5830-5.6850
U A E dirham	5.5750-5.6990

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	982	Lloyds Bk	2,600
ASDA Gp	13,000	London Elec	1,000
Abbey Ntl	2,400	Marks Spr	5,000
Allied Dom	1,900	Mid Elec	738
Argyll Gp	2,100	NatWst Bk	4,600
Arjo Wggns	4,500	Nat Grid	10,000
AB Foods	822	Nat Power	2,000
BAA	2,200	NW Water	630
BAT Inds	8,300	P & O	2,600
BOC	590	Pearson	3,000
BP	10,000	PowerGen	1,100
BSkyB	1,100	Prudential	4,300
BTR	12,000	REXAM	1,400
BT	10,000	RMC	423
Bk of Scot	3,100	RTZ	1,800
Barclays	5,400	Rank Org	3,300
Bass	3,200	Reckitt Col	3,000
Blue Circle	3,400	Redland	2,000
Boots	607	Reed Intl	1,600
BAe	1,800	Rentokil	1,500
BA	1,300	Reuters	1,700
Brit Gas	32,000	Rolls Royce	11,000
Brit Steel	11,000	Royal Ins	600
Burmah Cstl	767	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Cable Wire	4,000	Sainsbury	6,600
Cadbury	2,400	Schroders	23
Carlton Cms	971	Scot & New	2,500
Cm Union	1,000	Scot Power	549
Cookson	2,700	Sears	42,000
Courtaulds	2,400	Svrn Trent	1,200
De La Rue	861	Shell Trans	13,000
Enterpr Oil	1,200	Siebe	742
Forte	13,000	Smkl Bch	3,500
GKN	678	Smith Nph	4,200
GRE	2,200	Sthern Elec	1,200
GUS	2,300	Std Chartd	6,300
Gen Acc	1,000	Sun Allnce	2,600
Gen Elec	7,000	TI Gp	840
Glaxo Well	4,000	TSB	5,700
Granada	1,500	Tate & Lyle	250
Grand Met	4,000	Tesco	4,600
Guinness	2,900	Thames W	945
HSBC	2,400	Thrn EMI	1,200
Hanson	22,000	Tomkins	13,000
ICI	2,200	Unilever	793
Kingfisher	5,100	Vodafone	15,000
LASMO	7,400	Whitbread	396
Ladbroke	6,600	Wllms Hld	1,200
Land Secs	915	Wolseley	1,100
Legal & Gn	4,100	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 14 midday	Dec 13 close
AMP Inc	40½	40½
AMR Corp	76½	76½
AT & T	67½	68½
Abbott Labs	42½	41½
Advanced Micro	18½	18½
Aetna Life	69½	68½
Ahmanson (HF)	26½	26½
Air Prod & Chem	56½	55½
AirTouch Comm	27½	28½
Alberto-Culver B	30½	30½
Albertson's	33½	33½
Alcan Alumnm	32	32
Alco Standard	46½	44½
Allied Signal	48½	49½
Alum Co of Am	55½	54½
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7½
Amerada Hess	50½	50½
Amer Brands	45½	45½
Amer El Power	38½	38½
Amer Express	43½	43½
Amer Genl Corp	33½	33
Amer Home Pr	99	97½
Amer Intl	94½	93½
Amer Stores	26½	26½
Amer Standard	31½	31½
Ameritech	59	58½
Amoco	70½	71½
Anheuser-Busch	66½	67½
Apple Computer	38½	38½
Archer Daniels	17½	17½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	63½	63½
Asarco	31½	32½
Ashland Oil	36½	36
Atl Richfield	113½	114½
Auto Data Pro	74½	76½
Avery Dennison	48½	48½
Avon Products	78	78½
Baker Hughes	23½	23½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	38½	38½
BankAmerica	64½	66
Bank of NY	46½	45½
Bankers Tr NY	68½	68½
Barnett Banks	59½	60
Bausch & Lomb	39½	39½
Baxter Intl	42½	42½
Bectn Dicknsn	75	75½
Bell Atlantic	66½	67½
Bell Industries	22	21½
BellSouth	42½	42
Black & Decker	35½	35½
Block (H&R)	43	43½
Boeing	75	76½
Boise Cascade	33	32½
Bristol Myrs Sq	86½	85½
Browning Ferris	29½	31
Brunswick	21½	22
Burlington Nthn	79	78½
CNA Financial	116½	116
CPC Intl	74½	72½
CSX	89½	88½
Campbell Soup	61	59½
Can Pacific	17½	17½
Cptl Cities ABC	124½	124½
Carolina Pwr	33½	33½
Caterpillar	62	61½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	41½	40½
Chase Manhat	60½	61½
Chemical Bk	59½	59½
Chevron Corp	53½	53½
Chrysler	54	53½
Chubb Corp	98½	98½
Cigna Corp	105½	106½
Citicorp	66½	66½
Clorox	77½	77½
Coastal Corp	36½	35½
Coca Cola	79½	80
Colgate-Palmolive	76	74½
Columbia Gas	43½	43½
ColumbiaHCA	51½	51½
Compaq Comp	45½	47½
Comp Ass Intl	59½	62½
Conagra	40½	40½
Conrail	71½	71
Cons Edison	30½	30
Cons Nat Gas	45½	44½
Cooper Inds	36½	36½
Corestates	38½	38½
Corning Inc	31½	31½
Crown Cork	40½	41
Dana Corp	30½	30
Dayton Hudson	71½	72½
Deere	34½	34½
Delta Air Lines	75½	76½
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	34½	33½
Digital Equip	61½	63½
Dillard Dept St	28½	28½
Disney (Walt)	60½	60½
Dominion Res	40½	41
Donelley (RR)	37½	37½
Dover Corp	36½	36½
Dow Chemical	70½	70½
Dow Jones	39	39½
Dresser	23½	24½
Duke Power	46½	46½
Dun & Bradstreet	64½	65½
Du Pont	69	68½

	Dec 14 midday	Dec 13 close
Eastman Kodak	68	68½
Eaton Corp	54½	54½
Emerson Elec	81	80½
Engelhard Corp	21½	22½
Enron Corp	38½	38½
Entergy	27½	27½
Ethyl Corp	12½	12½
Exxon	84½	85½
FMC Corp	72½	72½
FPL Group	45½	45½
Federal Express	76½	81½
Fed Nat Mtge	113½	114
First Interstate	141½	141
First Union Rlty	7	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	39½	40½
Fluor Corp	67½	67
Ford Motor	28½	28½
GTE Corp	43½	43½
Gannett	62½	62½
Gap Inc Del	46½	46½
Gen Dynamics	60½	60½
Gen Electric	72	72
Gen Mills	57½	57
Gen Motors	50½	49½
Gen Reinsurance	154½	154½
Gen Signal	32½	32½
Genuine Parts	41½	41½
Georgia Pac	68½	67½
Gillette	54½	55½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27½	27½
Goodrich (BF)	66½	67
Goodyear Tire	45	44½
Grace (W&R)	59½	59½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	22½	22½
Great Wstn Fin	25½	25½
Halliburton	47½	47½
Harcourt General	41½	41
Heinz (HJ)	34½	34
Hercules	56½	56½
Hershey Foods	65½	65
Hewlett Packard	78½	80½
Hilton Hotels	63½	63½
Home Depot	45½	45
Homestake Mng	16½	15½
Honeywell	46½	46½
Household Intl	59½	58½
Houston Inds	23½	23½
Humana	26½	27½
ITT Corp	125½	124½
Illinois Tool	58½	57½
Illinova	28½	28½
INCO	35½	35½
Ingersoll Rand	37½	37½
Inland Steel	25½	25½
Intel Corp	60½	62½
IBM	93½	94½
Intl Flav & Fr	51	51½
Intl Paper	36	35½
James River Va	31½	31½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	91½	90½
Kellogg	79½	79½
Kerr-McGee	60½	60½
Kimberly-Clark	80	79½
Kmart	7½	7½
Knight-Ridder	65	64½
Lilly (Eli)	102½	102½
Limited Inc	17½	17½
Lincoln Nat	51½	50½
Litton	43½	43½
Liz Claiborne	29½	29½
Lockheed Martin	77½	77½
Louisiana Pac	24½	23½
MCI Comm	26½	26½
Marriott Intl	38½	38½
Marsh & McLen	89½	89½
Masco Corp	29½	29½
May Dept St	43½	43½
Maytag Corp	21	21½
McDonalds	47½	46½
McDonnell D	90½	90
McGraw Hill	85½	86½
Mead Corp	52½	51½
Medtronic	56½	55½
Mellon Bk	54½	54
Melville Corp	31½	31½
Merck Inc	66½	65½
Merrill Lynch	53½	54½
Microsoft	89½	91½
Minnesota Mine	69½	69½
Mobil Corp	114½	116½
Monsanto	122½	121½
Morgan (JP)	80	80½
Motorola Inc	57	59½
Natl Semi	22½	23½
Natl Service Ind	33½	32½
Navistar Int	11½	11
NY Times A	29½	30½
Newmont Mng	42½	42½
Niag Mohawk	9½	9½
Nike B	63½	63
NL Industries	12½	12½
Noram Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	40½	40½
Norfolk Sthrn	81½	81½
Nthn State Pwr	48½	48
Norwest Corp	33½	33½
Nynex Corp	49½	49½
Occidental Pet	20½	21½
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle	42½	43½

	Dec 14 midday	Dec 13 close
Oryx Energy Co	13½	13½
Owens Corning	45	45½
PPG Industries	46	46½
PNC Bank	29	29½
PP&L Res	24½	24½
Paccar Inc	50½	51½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	28½	28
Pac Gas & Elect	28½	28½
Pac Telesis	33½	34½
Pall Corp	27½	27½
Panhandle East	28½	28½
Parker Hannifin	35	35½
Peco Energy	29½	29½
Penney (JC)	47½	47½
Pennzoil	41½	41½
Pepsico	57½	57½
Pfizer	65½	65½
Pharm & Upjhn	39½	39½
Phelps Dodge	63½	63
Philip Morris	93½	91½
Phillips Pet	33½	33½
Pitney Bowes	47½	47½
Polaroid	47½	46½
PriceCostco	16½	16½
Procter & Gmbl	86½	86½
Providian	42½	42½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29½
Quaker Oats	36½	36½
Ralston Purina	65½	65½
Raychem Corp	58½	58½
Raytheon	46½	45½
Reebok Intl	25½	25½
Reynolds Metals	57½	56½
Roadway Srvcs	51½	51½
Rockwell Intl	52	51½
Rohm & Haas	62½	62
Royal Dutch	137½	136½
Rubbermaid	26½	26½
SBC Comms	57½	57½
Safeco Corp	37½	37½
St Paul's Cos	57½	57½
Salomon Inc	35½	35½
Sara Lee Corp	33½	33½
Scecorp	16½	16½
Schering Plough	58½	58½
Schlumberger	68½	69½
Seagram	36½	36½
Sears Roebuck	40	39½
Shell Trans	80½	79
Sherwin Wllms	39½	39½
Skyline Corp	18½	18½
Snap-On-Tools	44½	44½
Southern Co	24½	24½
Sprint Corp	39½	39½
Stanley Works	52½	52½
Sun Company	27½	27½
Sun Microsys	47½	49
Suntrust	66½	67½
Supervalu	32	31½
Sysco Corp	31½	31½
TRW Inc	74½	75½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	11½	11½
Tandy Corp	41½	42
Teledyne	24½	24½
Temple Inland	44½	44½
Tenneco	48½	48½
Texaco	79½	80½
Texas Inst	53½	55
Texas Utilities	39½	39
Textron	74½	72½
Time Warner	39½	39½
Times-Mirror A	34½	33½
Timken	39½	39½
Torchmark	44½	44½
Toys R Us	23½	23½
Transamerica	76½	76½
Travelers	61½	61½
Tribune	63½	62½
Tyco Labs	33	32½
UST Inc	33½	34½
UAL	204½	207½
US Inds	17½	17½
USX Marathon	19½	19½
Unicom	32½	32½
Unilever NV	141	140
Union Camp	46½	46½
Union Carbide	38½	38½
Union Pacific	67½	67½
Unisys Corp	5½	5½
USAIR Group	12½	12½
USF&G Corp	17½	17½
US Life	30½	31
United Tech	94½	94½
Unocal Corp	29	29½
VF Corp	52½	52
WMX Tech	30	30½
Wal-Mart Stores	23½	23½
Warner-Lambert	95½	95½
Wells Fargo	221½	220½
Westinghouse El	15½	15½
Weyerhaeuser	41½	41½
Whirlpool	55½	55½
Whitman	23½	23
Winn Dixie	36½	36½
Woolworth	14½	14½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	51½	52
Xerox	135½	136
Yellow Corp	12	12

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Doctors in distress

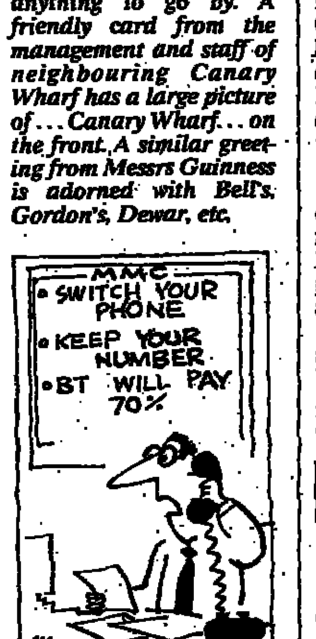
THE loss of the Amec account to rivals Dewe Rogerson and the rap from the Takeover Panel could not have come at a worse time for Financial Dynamics, the City spin doctors. Financial Dynamics directors are in the final stages of negotiating lucrative earn-outs with the firm's principal shareholder, BDDP of France. The directors include Tony Knox, a founding partner and voice of Amec for many a year.

Across the City at Dewe Rogerson, Martin Jackson has been handed the job of saving Amec from the clutches of Kvaerner. He has just four days to do the job, for the acrimonious bid must close on Monday. Not surprisingly, he seems more relaxed than Knox. "Martin cannot lose," said a friend. "If Amec wins, he will be hailed as a saviour. If Amec loses, he can blame Financial Dynamics."

Hole sale glut

DISTRESSD golf courses are such a drag on the market that Knight Frank & Rutley, the estate agent, has set up a consulting team to encourage buyers "to see potential where none exists any more for the current owners". Surprisingly, for nineteenth hole enthusiasts, the experts reckon it is better to spend cash on basics such as the actual course rather than on add-ons such as the clubhouse and restaurant. A less useful tip is that, as for any property based investment the location is by far the most important factor. Moving your bargain could prove expensive.

CHRISTMAS is proving as great a commercial opportunity as ever this year if the Christmas cards received by your humble columnists are anything to go by. A friendly card from the management and staff of neighbouring Canary Wharf has a large picture of... Canary Wharf... on the front. A similar greeting from Messrs Guinness is adorned with Bell's, Gordon's, Dewar, etc.



"The cost? We're talking telephone numbers"

Money talks

POUND for Pound, a new personal finance show, is to join BBC2's stable of specialist programmes aimed at a wider audience. The new six-part series starts on January 2 and includes a challenge for an investment broker and a consortium of sixth formers to go head-to-head and double £100. Michael Clark, one of the show's presenters and coincidentally the stock market correspondent of The Times, says that any plans to double the money "must be legal and not frighten the horses". Sounds an impossible task to me.

Sardines again

CHRISTMAS Greetings from Gwendolyn Lamb, who is coming up to her 14th Christmas living, as she puts it, on sardines. Lamb was a depositor in the Isle of Man Bank, which was unceremoniously closed down in 1982, and has fought a ceaseless campaign for restitution. "It's a scandal," she rages. "I'm still living on sardines, while the liquidators drink champagne."

Staff at a City firm enjoying their annual Christmas outing. Many companies have splashed out this year on providing entertainment.

Party time again as British business enters festive spirit

Victoria McKee finds that the corporate Christmas is alive and kicking up its heels

It is the season to be jolly, and Britain's businesses are entering into the party spirit more wholeheartedly than for years. Virtually every party planner and venue seems to be running several events a day, with some companies prepared to spend up to £500 a head to raise corporate morale.

As Kim Eyre-Varnier, who has arranged this year's black-tie bash on December 19 for the London advertisers Delaney Fletcher Bozell, put it: "You could pay people more but it wouldn't be worth as much."

John Nicholson, the business psychologist and management consultant whose firm advises companies as diverse as Walt Disney, Sun Alliance and British Telecom, said: "There's no question about it, the Christmas party is important. You should do it and do it properly. It is motivating and fun and is invariably a good investment in time and money. It gives a message that 'our people are important'."

How important? Many companies like to stick within the Government's tax-deductible limit and were encouraged by the increase to £75 this year. To help companies to keep within the limit some of the big themed London venues such as the City Christmas Funfair at Royal Victoria Docks, or the Cadogan Hall, turned by William Bartholomew into a "Scottish Christmas" complete with castle, offer popular packages of £69 per person, including all drink.

Others consider their staff worth much more, tax deductible or not. Caroline Armstrong-Jones, who with her husband Peregrine, Lord Snowdon's half brother, runs Bentley's Entertainments, said: "Most of our clients are spending at least double that, athough our parties run from £100 to £500 a head."

Bentley's is doing corporate parties every day throughout December, many with elaborate themes that are kept secret from all but the party planners. "We've got one for a big advertising agency in a church in Kennington with a really funky band, and another James Bond party with lots of special effects — silver Aston Martins, beautiful girls, great music, lush locations."

Intercapital, the City brokers, has found that "people remember the themed parties for two or three years afterwards". Michael Spencer, its managing director, is convinced they're good for business. This year, at the Gibson Hall, he played the role of the Tsar enjoying a White Russian Christmas on the eve of the 1917 revolution, being captured, in the middle of a sumptuous state banquet, by guests encouraged to feel like Russian peasants. In cases like this, the secrecy beforehand can reach fever pitch, and staff may be "teased" with hints for weeks in advance, raising excitement and, theoretically, productivity.

Phildrew Ventures of Finsbury Square held a big Rio-themed party at the Berkeley Hotel, complete with palm trees and salsa girls. Frank Neale, a partner in the firm, said: "We usually spend between £200 and £300 per head, and have a party every time we raise a fund. This year we took our 16 staff for a Christmas outing to Paris — but, alas, it was a long way to walk from the Gare du Nord to the restaurant we had chosen."

For party planners William Bartholomew, "this Christmas is the best in many years". As well as one-off parties, such as taking over part of the V&A museum in Kensington for Elf Petroleum, the Café Royal for Morgan Stanley, preparing a Hollywood Christmas for the Allied Trust Bank at the Delphina Studios, and James Bond parties in the old MI5 building for an advertising company and a hotel group, he is busy every night with his ready-made Scottish Christmas. BZW and Morse Computers have been among those enjoying a discotheque and four-course dinner for £69 a head at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea.

For those with smaller companies and less desire for exclusivity, Elegant Days offers the opportunity to buy tables at its City Funfair, complete with dodgems, Big Wheel and helter-skelter. Banks, insurance and investment companies, advertising agencies and television types are among those buying tables there.

"A lot are understandably coy about talking about how much money they spend on parties," says Eddie Hoare of Elegant Days, chairman of the Corporate Hospitality Association, who would like to set a British standard for business entertaining, should such a thing be possible.

Seasonal song for partygoers

The changing face of work means that Christmas parties are no longer just for those who know each other to see each other in more relaxed circumstances. With increasing numbers of teleworkers, outside managers and "interim managers", the annual party can be one of the few times to meet and network with colleagues who are usually just names on electronic memoranda or a voices on the end of a phone.

"Everyone will turn up with their own agenda and it's vital to understand that, as only those who can read the hidden agendas will do well at office parties," said Dr David Cowell, a specialist in the psychology of work. While he does not advise talking shop openly, you should "make sure you drop subtle comments of the right sort in the right ears", he suggested. "And remember that it's always better to turn up, even if you end up making a fool of yourself, than not to have turned up at all."

Dr Terry Kallard, a psychologist specialising in change in organisational function, said: "The annual party is a place where the hierarchical barriers tend to disappear, and in my experience the more you can break down those stupid barriers, the more effective the organisation is likely to become — as companies such as Rover have shown."

Yet Rover does not appear particularly festive and, except for a big annual dinner dance for its Rover Sport group, held in Bournemouth last weekend, saves its celebrations for launches. Ian Strachan, its press spokesman, said: "As a car company, we're a 'dry' site and don't have a company Christmas party. However, small groups who work together may go out to local restaurants, either paying their own way, or with bosses paying out of their own pockets."

That is still better than cutting out a party completely, Mr Nicholson said. "British Gas has announced that it's not going to contribute to its annual pensioner's party. That will be a huge strategic mistake," he said.

The Hoover plant in Scotland, Courtaulds Aerospace in Darlington and the Guardian Royal Exchange in London, are among the "Scrooges" singled out in a Labour Research Department survey, in which 40 firms, employing more than 130,000 people, out of 105 firms questioned admitted they did nothing for staff at Christmas.

Mr Nicholson, who attends numerous Christmas parties in his role as outside consultant, commented yesterday: "It's a false economy to cut back on the party. You'd be losing so much of the goodwill factor, which is like credit in the bank."

Showdown Down Under as unions show teeth

Rachel Bridge on labour strife that has blocked a P&O deal in Australia

Companies operating in Australia are bracing themselves for a renewed industrial strife as the country's trade unions take centre mount a last-ditch attempt to prove that they still matter.

Faced with steadily declining union membership, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has ended ten years of industrial relations stability to show business and government it still has the muscle to fight its corner.

British businesses have been the first to feel the impact. Last month, P&O, the British shipping giant, had to abandon its proposed acquisition of ANL, Australia's national shipping line, after maritime unions refused to back down over their demands that the Government retain a ten-year golden share in the business and that ANL's Asian shipping operations be protected. The unions had threatened a national waterfront strike if the sale to P&O went ahead without their consent.

The week before, CRA — the mining giant that is being merged with Britain's RTZ — had to abandon plans to introduce higher-paid individual contracts for its workers after the unions backed 70 striking CRA workers who had refused to sign by calling a national coal strike and threatening an all-out national strike if CRA did not back down. In what the ACTU described as a victory for the union movement, CRA has now agreed to give its non-union workers an 8 per cent pay rise and drop legal action against them.

> ‘Ministers have little stomach for a damaging national strike’

The union's timing could not be better. Although the Australian Government had made clear that it much preferred to sell ANL to P&O than to retain it and restructure it, ministers have little stomach for a damaging national strike in the run-up to what is expected to be a closely fought election. When its attempts at brokering a deal between the two sides failed, the Government had little choice but to admit defeat and call the whole thing off.

Richard Hein, P&O's chief executive in Australia, says he was "disappointed but not surprised" by the Government decision not to sell after the union's demands, which he describes as "unrealistic and impossible to meet commercially", proved unacceptable to the company.

P&O and CRA are now counting the cost of their skirmishes with the unions. P&O is understood to have spent more than A$1.5 million (£730,000) in direct costs associated with buying ANL, not to mention more than year of management time wasted on the proposed deal, ending with three months of intense negotiations with the unions. CRA is estimated to have lost several million dollars of profit from the coal strike, and the cost to Australian business as a whole is put at more than A$270 million.

Dick Warburton, one of Australia's leading industrialists, has warned of the damage to industry that the unions' hard-line stance could inflict, saying: "Any time you get a dispute of this nature, the stakes keep getting ratcheted upwards and eventually one side believes it has got to win the battle. Ultimately, though, we all lose the war."

The unions are determined not to do things by halves, bringing in Bob Hawke, the former Prime Minister and union stalwart, to present their case for collective bargaining, in the job that he held 25 years ago. In typical grandiose style, Mr Hawke described the battle with CRA as the most significant industrial dispute of the post-war period.

Many, however, see the union's sabre-rattling as its last stand in an era in which collective bargaining is becoming less relevant to the needs of the Australian workforce. Many workers have already turned their back on unionism in exchange for higher pay, while the rise of service industries, such as hospitality and information technology, and the increase in part-time work and contractors are eroding the unions' membership base.

Leon Davis, CRA's chief executive — who is moving to the UK to be RTZ's chief executive after the merger — says the unions served Australia well in the past but need to restructure themselves for the future.

CRA has made clear that it intends to press on with introducing individual contracts, saying: "Our experience has demonstrated that the work of employees who move from a collective work relationship to a direct two-party work relationship is more productive for the company and more enjoyable, as well as being more financially rewarding for employees."

BUSINESS LETTERS

State's demands on Post Office

From Mr David Cope

Sir, Over the last few years, the Post Office has, in the light of the expected privatisation, reduced costs and increased efficiency to augment its viability to potential investors. In a labour-intensive industry, this has, by and large, been achieved at the expense of full-time jobs. Emergent technology, and a shift in policy towards a part-time and casual workforce has further undermined the morale of the employees. Job security, we are constantly reminded, can only come through increased productivity, from diversification, by investment.

It was, then, with regret that I read the rejoinder of Pennington (December 1), to the reaction of the Post Office over the Chancellor's "wholesale looting" of its investment capital.

We on the front line of the industry are under no illusions. When Mr Clarke levies his windfall tax, the business *will* respond by "cutting out another slice of fat", and that will mean through the flesh and down to the bone of the rank and file.

Please spare a thought for the inevitable casualties amongst those that have helped to make Britain's postal service the envy of the world.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COPE,
124 Minerva Street,
Bulwell,
Nottingham.

Tax imposition will encourage departures of key staff

From Messrs Kingston Smith

Sir, The Chancellor's revised proposals for the tax treatment of share options still fail to address the main concern of successful private companies.

Unless their benefit falls within the £20,000 limit, employees of private companies who profit from exercising Inland Revenue-approved share options will be subject to an immediate tax charge without the means to pay for it.

This is because, unlike public companies, employees of private companies will not be able to sell some of their shares on the stock market to raise the funds to pay the tax.

The Chancellor's continued imposition will encourage key people to leave private companies earlier than would otherwise be the case — because private companies normally buy back shares from departing employees and that may be the only way that employees will be able to raise the funds to pay the tax.

This contradicts entirely the original purpose of share option schemes which was to motivate people to stay and contribute to the growth in the value of their company. A fair and practical solution for private companies would be to defer the collection of such tax until the shares are eventually sold.

Once again, the public company perspective on events has dominated the headlines, whereas the needs of private companies, which are so important to the growth of our economy, are overlooked.

Yours faithfully,
KINGSTON SMITH,
Chartered Accountants,
Devonshire House,
146 Bishopsgate,
EC2.

Action, yes, but fair value for all from a united Council of Lloyd's

From Robert Hiscox

Sir, I note that Mr Deeny, on election to the Council of Lloyd's, announced to the press that there is now a real prospect of a realistic level of compensation being paid to names.

I assume he means that the Action Group leaders elected to Council will press hard for compensation in excess of the existing offer, which is about three times the amount that litigants could hope to achieve in court.

Members of Lloyd's are elected to the Council to act on behalf of the whole Society, not one part of it. They are not supposed to act as delegates.

The Council of Lloyd's should not be like Parliament with people with opposite views, representing different factions, fighting each other, but should be like a board of directors, united in their efforts to bring value to all shareholders.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HISCOX,
Hiscox Holdings Ltd.,
52 Leadenhall Street,
London,
EC3.

Caring face of bank

From Miss J. Ernestine Bagshaw

Sir, During the 55 years I have been a customer with Barclays Bank, Strand WC2, I have received pleasant and swift attention. I have never had any errors.

The junior staff seem to have a certain amount of discretion. If a letter relating to a high-interest account has not arrived, the clerk is able to deal with the request immediately instead of the usual 30 days' notice. As to Barclaycard, my remarks also apply. Last Friday, I telephoned about a missing Visa card. The same afternoon, a bouquet of flowers arrived from their lost and stolen department which did wonders for my morale as I am recovering from a stroke.

There offices are obviously happy "ships".

Yours faithfully,
J. ERNESTINE BAGSHAW,
Porte Bonheur,
87 Park Road,
Brentwood, Essex.

Welsh Water's profit sources

From Mr T. C. J. Carter

Sir, It was very interesting to read of the 63% rise in profits of Welsh Water and the way the company attributes their performance to increased efficiency (Business News, November 25).

However, it should be remembered that they are by far the highest when it comes to charging. I know of households both in Gloucester (Severn Trust) and Worthing (East Sussex), which are very similar to mine, where the combined water and sewage charges are only 60% of our bill. Perhaps "enthusiastic billing" should be added to the reasons for good performance.

Yours faithfully,
T. C. J. CARTER,
8 Woodland View,
Ross-on-Wye,
Herefordshire.

Banking discrepancy

From T. Sales

Sir, In his article (December 6) Pennington writes "Time was when a bank was a temple of marbled prudence and its manager a forbidding, pin-striped pillar of rectitude".

Please tell me when this took place. I started to work for a bank in 1931 and retired as a manager in 1973, but I somehow seem to have missed it.

Yours faithfully,
T. SALES
6 Temple Fortune Lane,
NW11 7UD.

Pre-BSE Corner House nostalgia

From Lord Brightman

Sir, Following upon Mr Donald Reeves's letter (December 12), I also am wrapped in waves of intense nostalgia. In the early 1950s, as an impecunious barrister, I regarded the Coventry Street Corner House as the finest eating place in London. On the infrequent occasions when I received a brief, I would take my wife there for a superb duck roasted on the spit, or a salmon, served by our favourite Polish waiter, recently released from his country's armed forces. I remember it all so well. We took some of our many French friends there. It was not expensive. One of them, a member of the Academie Française, told us that the beef (pre-BSE) was better than any he could eat in Paris.

Yours nostalgically,
BRIGHTMAN,
House of Lords, SW1.

Ford

Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 12 October, 1995 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 December, 1995.

Gross Distribution per unit	1.7500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.2625 Cents
	1.4875 Cents
Converted at $1.545	£0.00962783

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY; National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 December, 1995

UK bids in Australian power sale

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

POWERGEN and National Power have emerged as bidders for a power station in Australia which is expected to go under the hammer for at least A$2 billion (£966 million). The sale of the coal-fired Yallourn power station is the latest stage of the State Government of Victoria's successful electricity privatisation programme.

The sell-off has already reaped A$9 billion from the sale of the state's five distribution companies, more than twice the amount expected.

Hoever analysts point out that buying a power station is a very different proposition to buying a distributor, with Victoria's wholesale electricity prices expected to fall by between 10 and 15 per cent over the next three years.

The two British contenders are believed to be competing separately for the 1450 mW power station against four American-based consortia, including a team made up of Hanson's US coal mining company Peabody and US power group NRG.

PowerGen is understood to have found itself an Australian partner, while National Power is bidding alone. A shortlist is expected to be announced in January with the winner chosen by the end of February.

Cellnet boosts Securicor profit despite squeeze on market

BY PAUL DURMAN

MICHAEL POWELL

Roger Wiggs, Securicor chief executive, with Chris Shirtcliffe, finance director, announced profits of £99.4 million

PRE-CHRISTMAS sales of mobile phones have failed to meet industry expectations, Cellnet said yesterday.

Steve Rowley, Cellnet marketing director, said that, although sales were buoyant, "the absolute size of the market is smaller than we expected". He suggested that the highly competitive offers available throughout this year have prevented a repeat of last year's pre-Christmas sales bonanza.

Cellnet, 40 per cent owned by Securicor Group, which announced full-year results yesterday, added 57,000 new subscribers in October, 69,000 in November and 40,000 so far this month. Mr Rowley said he expected the December total to add between 80,000 and 100,000 subscribers to Cellnet's existing total of two million.

Mr Rowley said Cellnet was "tantalisingly close" to overtaking Vodafone as the largest of the mobile telephone groups. He said Cellnet remains the fastest growing, and that the inroads made by Orange and Mercury One2One had been at the expense of Vodafone.

Securicor's profits from Cellnet rose 26 per cent to £70.6 million in the year to September 30. In contrast, the security, parcel distribution and courier businesses managed by Securicor contributed profits of £30.1 million, a 22 per cent rise. The group total would have exceeded £100 million for the first time last year but for the £1.3 million costs it incurred on the attempted sale, blocked in June by the Government, of the Cellnet stake to BT, which owns the rest of the company.

This pegged group pre-tax profits back to £99.4 million, up from £80.6 million. Group sales passed £1 billion for the first time. Cellnet has recently introduced a new product that allows calls to be transferred to mobile phones using a traditional four-digit extension number.

Cellnet regards this as the start of the convergence between fixed line and mobile telephony. Roger Wiggs, Securicor's chief executive said: "I believe Cellnet is driving the market now. It's in control."

Securicor's cash carrying business — it handles more than £100 billion a year — had a tough year, hurt by increased levels of attacks, including a £5 million robbery in Manchester.

Earnings per share rose from 37.5p to 44p. A 20 per cent increase in the final dividend to 3.116p lifts the total to 4.018p. Security Services, the separately quoted group 50.75 per cent owned by Securicor, is paying a final dividend of 5.826p to increase the total to 7.714p.

Tempus, page 24

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

M&G profits hit by exceptional costs

M&G, Britain's largest independent unit trust group with nearly £14 billion under management, has unveiled a 15 per cent fall in annual profits to £52 million after taking exceptional costs into account. The exceptional costs related to new computer systems (£14.8 million) and a head office move (£4.1 million), without which pre-tax profits would have remained broadly unchanged over 1994. Operating profit, before exceptional costs, from unit and investment trusts and institutional business fell to £35.4 million from £38.4 million.

Administration expenses, excluding exceptional items, rose by 7.9 per cent to £25.6 million due to investment in technology and the cost of bringing fund management salaries into line with industry standards. David Morgan, group managing director of M&G, which raised its final dividend 1p to 18p, said: "Sales of our investment products, while down on last year's record levels, were still the second highest the group has ever achieved."

Tempus, page 24

NBC-Microsoft venture

NBC and Microsoft are to be equal partners in two joint ventures providing 24-hour cable television news and an online service. Microsoft will invest $220 million over the next five years for its stake in the cable television venture, which will make its debut within six months on NBC's *America's Talking* cable channel, the companies said. Earlier, in Hong Kong, Bill Gates, Microsoft chairman, said the joint venture will include interactive news on the Internet as well as 24-hour broadcast news. Gates said the project may not provide any money for five to six years, but the two companies had decided to proceed anyway.

Trading slide at Acatos

ACATOS & HUTCHESON, the edible oils and fats manufacturing company, suffered a decline in profits to £7.6 million before tax from £14.2 million in the year to October 1, after a deterioration in trading in most areas. Acquisitions made in late 1994 both resulted in losses. The Co-op margarine and oils business proved costly to relocate and prices difficult to renegotiate, the company said, although these problems were now being resolved. Earnings fell to 5.5p a share from 30.3p. The total dividend is unchanged at 9p a share, with a maintained final payment of 5.5p due April 9. The shares fell 43p to 225p.

Burford buys eight sites

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property investment company, has acquired a portfolio of eight freehold commercial properties from Scottish Widows for £48.75 million in cash, including costs. The reversionary portolio generates a net annual rental income of about £3.4 million. Its total area for letting is about 285,000 sq ft. The major property is the Covent Garden Museum block in central London. The portfolio includes the Manor House office building in Soho Square, west London. The other properties are in Norwich, Glasgow, Exeter, Romford and Bournemouth.

Intercare edges ahead

INTERCARE GROUP, the medical products and mobility company, is holding the total dividend at 3.5p a share for the year to October 31 after returning profits little changed at £2.48 million before tax, compared with £2.33 million previously. Earnings were 5.3p a share (5.5p). The final dividend is unchanged at 2.8p a share, due April 8. Turnover improved to £45.23 million, compared with £44.34 million. Latest pre-tax profits included a net £549,000 surplus from disposals and restructuring. The shares rose 2p to 55p.

CRT turnover rises

CRT GROUP, the recruitment, training and multimedia company, increased profits to £1.75 million before tax from £1.29 million, reflecting a rise in turnover to £48.1 million from £29.2 million during the six months to the end of October. Earnings were 1.71p a share (1.42p), and the interim dividend is increased to 0.925p a share from 0.85p, payable June 19. The shares fell 2p to 116p. Profits for the full year will again be heavily weighted to the second half. Karl Chapman, chief executive, said that the company is well placed commercially and financially.

Scottish Hydro-Electric plc

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1995

- **Sales up 5.7% with strong growth in England and Wales.**
- **Stated Earnings per share up 80.4% due to absence of 1994's debt redemption premium.**
- **Underlying Earnings per share up 10.1%.**
- **Interim Dividend up 9.4% in line with target.**
- **Service to Customers improved again.**

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Commenting on the results Lord Wilson, Chairman, said:

"Our strong underlying earnings growth has come mainly from improved sales throughout Britain which have offset the real price reductions in most market sectors. The absence of a debt redemption premium this year somewhat distorts comparison of stated figures. The underlying improvement in operating profit and in earnings per share was 7.7% and 10.1% respectively. We have, therefore, raised our interim dividend 9.4% in line with our current growth target. This dividend is covered 2.5 times and will be paid to shareholders on 20 March 1996.

"Sales volumes to domestic customers in Scotland were up on 1994, reversing the negative impact of VAT last year. Commercial and industrial volumes were also increased, but real price reductions offset these achievements so that total turnover in Scotland was slightly down.

"Sales in England and Wales grew strongly. Volume was up by over 18% compared with the same period last year and turnover was up by over 21%. The net overall effect of this was that 37% of total electricity sales volume and 30% of our total turnover was accounted for south of the border. A continuing emphasis on serving smaller customers and reducing costs helped to improve operating margins.

"We have a strong underlying cashflow. Our balance sheet remains robust and well able to support our Scottish investment programme as well as the development projects we are looking to conclude throughout Britain. Gearing remains virtually unchanged from last year at 30%, including our share of the debt of Keadby Power Limited. Interest cover has improved to 30.4 times.

"Improving service to all our customers at lower prices continues to be a high priority. On most performance measures this has been achieved. Customer complaints are down 46% on last year. Raising service standards even further is a key focus of our efforts. We look for more progress in this area.

"Part of our service improvement programme is to spend heavily on the refurbishment of the older, mainly rural, sections of our distribution network so as to improve reliability of supply. Following the MMC's support of our 10 year investment programme in this area, the momentum of work is increasing and we expect customers to see real benefits quite soon.

"Productivity improvements throughout our operations are vital to our ability to deliver both falling real prices and a substantial network investment programme. We have more than trebled productivity since 1989. The further actions now in hand to raise output and reduce costs will further improve performance over the next 2-3 years. In the half year controllable overheads have been cut by 9%.

"We are also seeking to maintain the momentum of our market share expansion which has been a major source of our earnings growth since 1990. Since then we have more than doubled the volume of electricity we trade and we are currently working on a number of new projects aimed at continuing this trend. These will, however, go ahead only if we are satisfied that they fit our tight strategic remit and have good prospects of making attractive returns.

"Hydro-Electric has reached the final round of bidding for First Hydro Ltd, the pumped storage business in England and Wales previously owned by National Grid. The outcome of the sale is expected to be known later in December. If Hydro-Electric is successful at this stage, shareholders' consent to the acquisition will be sought at an EGM in January, full details of which would be given in a circular to all shareholders early in January.

"The second half of the financial year has started satisfactorily and we are confident of an encouraging result for the full period."

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn GCMG

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (UNAUDITED)

	Note	6 months to 30 September 1995 £M	 1994 £M	Year to 31 March 1995 £M
Turnover from continuing operations		388.2	367.4	833.1
Operating profit		64.8	58.5	196.8
Losses from interests in associated undertakings		1.0	0.2	1.8
Profit from ordinary activities before interest and similar charges		63.8	58.3	195.0
Net interest payable		2.1	4.6	7.5
Premium on redemption of bonds	2	-	18.8	18.8
Profit before taxation		61.7	34.9	168.7
Taxation		16.3	10.4	51.4
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		45.4	24.5	117.3
Minority interests		0.1	0.7	1.6
Profit for the period		45.5	25.2	118.9
Dividend	3	18.3	16.7	53.8
Retained profit		27.2	8.5	65.1
Earnings per share (p) -actual	4	11.85	6.57	31.00

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than the profit for the period

GROUP BALANCE SHEET (UNAUDITED)

	At 30 September 1995 £M	 1994 £M	At 31 March 1995 £M
Fixed assets and investments	1,111.0	1,032.2	1,084.2
Current assets less current liabilities	(135.9)	(139.9)	(135.8)
Long term liabilities and provisions	(168.5)	(170.8)	(170.0)
Minority interests	-	(0.1)	-
	806.6	721.4	778.4
Share capital and reserves	806.6	721.4	778.4
Net borrowings	72.2	65.1	102.0
Gearing	9.0%	9.0%	13.1%

GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

	6 months to 30 September 1995 £M	 1994 £M	Year to 31 March 1995 £M
Net cash inflow from operating activities	116.4	99.9	215.5
Net cash (outflow) from returns on investments and servicing of finance	(39.2)	(4.6)	(57.8)
Tax paid	(4.6)	(6.8)	(37.1)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities	(44.3)	(42.2)	(108.6)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing	1.0	(134.7)	(133.7)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	29.3	(88.4)	(121.7)

NOTES ON THE HALF-YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Interim Financial Statements

These interim financial statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies consistent with those set out in the Company's Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1995. The information shown for the year ended 31 March 1995 does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 240 of the Companies Act 1985 and has been extracted from the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1995 filed with the Registrar of Companies. The report of the Auditors on these financial statements was unqualified.

2. Redemption of Bonds

On 23 August 1994, the Company redeemed £116.0M 11.856% bonds due 2005 at a premium of £18.8m.

3. Dividends

The interim dividend of 4.75p (1994 4.34p) per ordinary share is payable on 20 March 1996 to those shareholders whose names appear on the register of members on 13 February 1996.

4. Earnings Per Share

Earnings per share has been calculated by dividing the retained profit for the period of £45.5M (1994 £25.2M) by 384.0M ordinary shares (1994 383.8M), being the average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

There should be no significant dilution of earnings per share if the outstanding share options were exercised.

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Canberra intervenes in RTZ merger

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE
IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Government intervened yesterday in RTZ's proposed A$27 billion (£13 billion) merger with CRA, its 49 per cent owned Australian mining group, with an unexpected list of demands that it said were necessary to protect the national interest.

Ralph Willis, the Federal government's Treasurer, demanded that at least one-third of the board of the merged group must be Australians, and that CRA must be given control of the merged group's Latin American operations. He said: "The Government places significance on the wider involvement in world economic activity of Australia's mining companies."

The move was greeted with astonishment by the Australian financial community, which suggested that the Government may be attempting to win political points in the run-up to Federal election. One analyst said: "There is no precedent for it and no clear logical case for it. They have totally misunderstood the nature of the proposed deal."

CRA does not currently operate in Latin America, while RTZ has a 30 per cent stake in the world's largest copper mine, Escondida. After the merger the two companies planned to retain separate boards, but made up of the same people.

CRA shareholders are due to vote on the proposed merger with RTZ at an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday.

BICC wins $320m rail contract

BY MARTIN BARROW

BICC, the cables and construction group, announced the award of a $320 million rail contract in America for the electrification of Amtrak's northeast corridor between Boston, Massachusetts, and New Haven, Connecticut.

The project will be undertaken by Balfour Beatty Construction and Balfour Kilpatrick, the group's electrical engineering company. The two Balfour Beatty companies will complete 50 per cent of the work, amounting to $160 million, with the remainder falling to their joint venture partner, Mass Electric Construction, of the US.

The contract is for the design, supply, installation and testing of a 150mph overhead system, together with substations and switching stations, auxiliary cabling, and five moveable bridge arrangements. The 576-mile railroad is mainly double track. The target completion date for the project is June 1999.

TEN
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هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01895 258 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Groland Amer	200.80	212.50†	...	0.16
Groland Equity	271.50	288.80	+ 1.20	2.06
Groland Euro	239.60	253.60	+ 0.80	1.45
Groland Expt Bal	125.80	130.30	...	0.81
Groland Gilt	77.28	79.67	+ 0.15	4.39
Groland Japan	175.50	185.70†	+ 0.70	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
General Acc	618.80	658.40	+ 1.50	2.60
General Inc	531.70	565.70	+ 1.30	2.60
UK Growth Acc	417.70	444.40	+ 0.90	2.83
UK Growth Inc	278.20	296.00	+ 0.50	2.83
Higher Inc Acc	764.00	812.80	+ 1.40	4.16
Higher Inc Inc	425.10	452.30	+ 0.80	4.16
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	207.10	218.70	+ 0.68	5.50
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.20	100.50	+ 0.20	5.50
Nth America	336.50	358.00	- 0.30	
Europe	318.60	339.00	+ 1.10	0.84
Bri Excel	83.51	88.84†	+ 0.16	2.93
Brit Fxdnstls Acc	111.80	119.00	+ 0.40	4.71
Brit Fxdnstls Inc	78.30	83.30	+ 0.20	4.71
Global Opps	96.08	102.20†	+ 0.30	0.27
Balanced Acc	60.63	64.50	+ 0.14	2.83
Balanced Inc	58.01	61.72	+ 0.13	2.83
Japan Acc	47.80	50.64	+ 0.20	...
Pac Basin Acc	384.70	409.30	- 0.30	1.00

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	132.60	140.60†	+ 0.30	7.11
High Inc Equity	175.30	187.50	+ 0.90	4.20
Worldwide Bond	292.10	309.70†	- 1.00	4.52
American Growth	339.10	362.30	+ 0.70	0.35
Asian Pacific	316.80	338.60	+ 0.90	
Assets & Earnings	286.80	305.10†	+ 0.80	2.84
Euro Capital Acc	159.80	170.90	- 0.10	0.60
Extra Inc	44.89	47.76	+ 0.22	8.42
General	261.80	278.50	+ 0.89	2.89
Global Opps	59.07	62.84	+ 0.02	0.48
Japan	124.80	133.50	- 0.10	
Managed Inc	47.50	50.53	+ 0.12	4.60
Mastertrust	153.40	164.10	+ 0.20	1.44
US Emerging Cos	178.80	190.20	+ 0.50	...
Ethical	74.61	79.37	+ 0.32	2.47
International	127.40	135.50		0.60
Dividend & Growth	65.91	70.12	+ 0.28	4.01
Global Gwth & Sec	70.65	75.48	- 0.05	2.89

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	94.70	101.12	+ 0.37	2.54
American Portfolio	113.42	120.28†	+ 0.18	0.93
European Portfolio	110.68	117.90	+ 0.52	0.40
High Income	52.53	52.61†	+ 0.07	6.60
Japanese Portfolio	69.80	74.22	+ 0.26	.
Pacific Portfolio	146.01	157.01†	+ 0.28	1.43
UK Inc & Growth	87.44	93.05	+ 0.68	3.85
Utility & Bond	57.10	57.78	+ 0.13	6.61

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	719.06	729.92	- 2.52	4.41
Fxd Int Sec	157.49	158.13	+ 0.95	9.04

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	721.70	732.60	- 1.28	4.35
Investment Acc	531.78	532.28	- 5.56	
Fixed Int Inc	130.38	130.90	+ 0.02	8.79
Fixed Int Acc	216.97	217.83	+ 0.02	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beckman Intl	93.65	98.78	+ 0.02	3.01
Beck Bio-Tech	41.42	44.70†	- 0.02	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	168.35	176.78†		0.72
City Fin Assets	77.26	81.13	.	2.06
City Fin America	105.59	110.88	+ 0.02	
City Fin Intl	87.84	92.24†	+ 0.17	0.89
City Fin Japan	151.61	161.82	+ 1.89	
Friars Hse Cap	286.94	310.47		2.35
Friars Hse Inc	191.78	200.34†	...	4.32
Buckley Wrld Gth	138.57	147.94	+ 1.05	.
Famnt Cap Gth	143.33	150.87†	- 2.34	
Falconbury Intl	155.14	163.31†	+ 1.42	.
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	55.64	58.43†	- 1.47	2.45

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	55.23	58.60	- 0.18	.

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	76.44	81.32	- 0.03	
Dragon Growth	69.29	73.83	- 0.25	0.01
Equity High Inc	87.58	93.09†	+ 0.11	4.07
-do- Accum	122.30	130.17	+ 0.15	4.07
Extra Income Inc	27.02	28.45	+ 0.01	7.10
Extra Income Acc	28.12	29.61	+ 0.02	7.10
European Gwth	57.53	61.04	+ 0.42	1.10
Evergreen	29.36	31.40	+ 0.06	
General Equity	95.15	100.95	+ 0.38	2.89
Japan Growth	52.72	56.09	+ 0.10	..

FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	72.56	77.09	- 0.22	..
-do- Accum	72.38	77.09	- 0.22	.
Amer Smlr Cos	619.50	662.60	- 5.40	...
-do- Accum	632.98	676.80	- 5.60	
Capital Tst	337.50	358.90	+ 0.40	1.40
-do- Accum	490.10	521.20	+ 0.50	1.40
Conti Smlr Cos	56.53	60.27	- 0.18	0.59
-do- Accum	59.65	63.58	- 0.20	0.59
Convertible	133.70	142.20	- 0.10	5.41
-do- Accum	275.80	293.30	- 0.20	5.41
Emerging Markets	63.98	68.36†	+ 0.13	.
-do- Accum	64.23	68.61	+ 0.11	.
European	127.50	135.00	+ 0.50	0.40
-do- Accum	134.10	142.00	+ 0.60	0.40
Extra Income	358.98	382.80	+ 0.20	3.85
-do- Accum	552.70	587.80	+ 0.30	3.85
Financial	149.00	159.70†	+ 0.30	0.52
-do- Accum	157.80	168.00†	+ 0.20	0.52
Gilt Trust	65.24	67.27	+ 0.14	5.96
-do- Accum	96.08	99.07	+ 0.22	5.96
Health Fund Inc	216.10	230.90†	- 0.40	
-do- Accum	216.10	230.90†	- 0.40	...
Income & Growth	207.10	220.30†	+ 0.50	3.36
-do- Accum	323.70	344.30†	+ 0.70	3.36
Intl Growth	400.50	430.90†	- 1.20	..
-do- Accum	448.10	476.40†	- 1.50	
Japan & Gen	185.30	197.60	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	187.10	199.60	+ 1.30	.
Monthly Inc #	177.50	188.70†	+ 0.10	3.65
Managed Port Inc	113.50	119.50	+ 0.10	2.00
-do- Accum	121.90	128.30	..	2.00
Quarterly Income #	53.18	57.85†	+ 0.10	3.46
-do- Accum #	58.97	63.30†	+ 0.12	3.46
Recovery	347.80	371.90	- 0.80	0.08
-do- Accum	410.50	438.90	- 1.10	0.08
UK Growth	59.69	63.82	+ 0.11	2.44
-do- Accum	63.26	67.64	+ 0.12	2.44

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FP American	56.08	59.63†	+ 0.02	0.40
FP Am Smlr Cos	173.20	185.30	+ 1.00	...
FP Asian Growth	265.40	283.80†	..	.
FP Australian	378.70	406.30	- 1.10	.
FP Equity Dist	415.50	442.00†	+ 1.50	2.59
-do- Accum	901.00	958.50†	+ 3.20	2.59
FP Euro Gth	244.40	259.90	+ 0.10	0.15
-do- Accum	265.50	282.40	..	0.15
FP Intl Bond	61.80	65.38	- 0.08	4.82
FP Intl Gth Dist	35.79	38.19†	+ 0.04	0.45
-do- Accum	52.28	55.79†	+ 0.06	0.45
FP Pac Basin Acc	212.10	226.70†	+ 0.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	155.63	165.99	- 0.07	0.91
Eur Sp Sits	76.71	81.78	- 0.02	1.28
-do- Accum	82.17	87.60	- 0.03	1.29
Japan Trust	228.75	243.76	+ 0.81	.
Japan Special Sits	222.23	236.93	+ 1.22	
Pacific Smlr Cos	231.41	247.60	- 0.54	
North American	292.00	309.99	+ 0.35	..
American Smaller	145.11	155.12	- 1.17	

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
0181 686 4355

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	111.33	118.57†	+ 0.20	1.89
Capital	192.29	201.35	+ 0.26	1.36
Dollar	444.27	465.21	- 0.43	...
Enterprise Gth	370.43	387.88	+ 0.66	1.48
European	253.78	265.75	+ 0.87	0.40
Far East	313.50	328.37†	- 0.04	
Financial	965.35	1010.10	+ 4.49	1.79
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.50	27.56	+ 0.02	6.65
High Yield	107.23	112.28†	+ 0.32	3.68
Income & Growth	153.80	161.04†	+ 0.27	3.15
International	282.81	296.14	- 0.25	
Japanese General	217.70	227.96†	+ 0.24	
Japan Tech	94.60	99.06	- 0.32	
Nat Resources	80.40	84.25	- 0.62	
Portfolio	80.14	83.92	+ 0.06	1.33
Smaller Cos	141.57	148.24	+ 0.29	0.08
Special Sits	177.22	185.57	+ 0.55	0.85
UK Emerging Cos	106.03	111.03	+ 0.47	0.89
US Smaller Cos	125.71	131.63	- 0.92	

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers: 0800 181 890 Investors, 0800 289 505

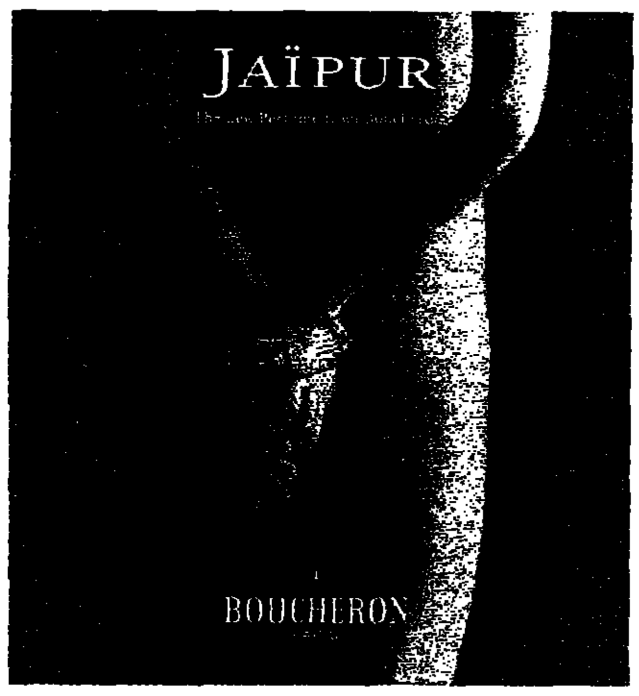
	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Funds				
Balanced #	109.40	116.80†	+ 0.70	5.61
Capital	664.60	709.30	+ 2.20	2.17
Income #	612.70	653.90	+ 1.40	5.75
Footsie Fund	60.70	61.00†	+ 0.10	2.94
Trinity Index	113.30	119.90		2.35
UK Index	156.40	165.50	+ 0.40	3.21
International Funds				
American Growth	576.70	613.30	+ 1.20	0.45
American Index	261.20	276.40	+ 0.40	1.22
European Growth	126.10	134.50	+ 0.60	0.16
Eurotrack 100	182.70	193.30	+ 1.00	1.00
Global Bond	23.34	24.63	- 0.04	5.07
Japan Growth	290.30	309.70	+ 0.40	
Japan Index	83.87	88.75	+ 0.23	0.18
Japan Smlr Cos	31.69	33.82	- 0.04	.
Far Eastern Funds				
Asian	60.89	64.98	- 0.45	0.17
Hong Kong Gwth	118.20	126.10	- 0.40	1.27
Singpre & Mlysn Gth	80.08	85.46	+ 1.05	
Tiger Index	202.50	214.30	- 0.50	0.45

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
World Health	193.20	205.50	- 0.70	.
Income	186.80	198.80	+ 0.07	3.07
UK Growth	73.50	78.18	+ 0.17	0.45
International	81.16	86.33	+ 0.23	0.07
Ecology	91.56	97.40	+ 0.02	1.10
European	144.06	153.25	- 0.34	
Far Eastern	302.50	321.70	- 0.40	

KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	101.00	104.40†	+ 0.20	7.37
Gilt Yield	120.00	126.50†	+ 0.20	6.72



	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Income	222.60	238.80†	+ 0.20	3.66
High Yield	145.50	154.80	- 0.80	5.77
-do- Accum	459.20	488.50	- 2.80	5.77
Smlr Cos Dir	55.24	58.77†	- 0.03	2.91
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	129.50	137.80	+ 1.70	
Asian Growth	325.80	346.68	+ 0.40	0.24
-do- Accum	382.80	407.20	+ 0.40	0.24
North American	99.15	105.50†	+ 0.14	0.25
European Special	113.98	121.20	- 0.10	0.10
European	164.10	174.60†	+ 1.40	0.47
-do- Accum	216.30	230.10†	+ 1.70	0.47
Global Eqty Inc	115.30	122.40	+ 0.50	2.10
Japan	428.00	455.30	+ 1.80	.
Japanese Special	232.00	246.80	+ 0.60	
Smaller Cos	123.40	131.39†	+ 0.40	1.16
UK Equity Growth	44.48	47.32	+ 0.31	1.56
UK Index Inc	311.90	313.50†	+ 1.40	3.47

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	113.60	120.90	- 1.20	..
Master Trust	63.50	67.56	+ 0.16	1.22
-do- Accum	72.14	76.75	+ 0.18	1.22
N American Gth	230.40	245.20	+ 0.20	0.63
-do- Accum	266.40	283.50	+ 0.20	0.63
Nth Sm Co Rec	177.70	189.10	+ 0.29	.
-do- Accum	181.40	193.00	+ 0.30	
Pacific Basin	263.20	280.00	- 0.30	0.31
-do- Accum	279.60	297.50	- 0.30	0.31
Small Cos Rec	437.60	480.70	+ 13.60	1.77
-do- Accum	596.00	637.40	+ 18.50	1.77
UK Eq Gth	150.50	160.20	+ 0.70	2.90
UK Eq Inc	121.40	129.20	+ 0.60	4.22
UK Growth	96.91	103.18	+ 1.50	2.08
-do- Accum	119.30	127.00	+ 2.00	2.08
Worldwide Gth	347.10	369.30†	+ 0.20	.
-do- Accum	512.90	545.70	+ 0.40	

LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT
01392 282 673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	82.22	88.06	+ 0.25	0.40
General	98.99	106.21†	+ 0.36	2.30
Income	68.94	73.97	+ 0.34	5.40
International	71.78	77.01	+ 0.12	0.40
Japan	60.77	65.20	- 0.05	
Tst of Inv Trusts	71.87	77.11	+ 0.16	1.40

M & G SECURITIES
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer & General	487.60	515.60	- 0.90	0.38
-do- Accum	608.70	643.60	- 1.20	0.38
Amer Recovery	533.70	564.40†	- 1.80	0.52
-do- Accum	615.00	650.30†	- 2.10	0.52
Amer Smlr Cos	151.30	160.00	- 1.10	
-do- Accum	154.60	163.50	- 1.10	.
Australasian	171.30	181.20	- 0.10	2.44
-do- Accum	211.40	223.60	- 0.20	2.44
Capital	900.30	952.00	+ 3.50	2.94
-do- Accum	1044.00	1104.10	+ 4.10	2.94
Charifund	724.90	732.30†	+ 5.30	5.90
-do- Accum	3563.40	3599.10†	+ 26.00	5.90
Commodity	434.40	459.40	- 2.30	0.39
-do- Accum	639.70	676.60	- 3.30	0.39
Compound Gth	1030.40	1089.70	+ 5.00	2.95
-do- Accum	1108.60	1172.40	+ 5.30	2.95
Dividend	43.00	45.50†	+ 0.20	4.40
-do- Accum	187.40	198.60†	+ 1.30	4.40
Equity Income	336.30	355.60	+ 1.30	5.11
-do- Accum	446.30	471.90	+ 1.70	5.11
Euro & General	543.00	574.20	- 0.90	1.38
-do- Accum	692.10	731.80	- 1.20	1.38
Euro Dividend	76.40	80.80		3.79
-do- Accum	94.10	99.70	+ 0.10	3.79
Euro Yield	439.10	464.40	+ 3.50	4.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Bond	67.75	71.19†	- 0.11	5.59
Intl Equity Growth	80.88	85.95†	+ 0.07	0.60
N Amer Growth	125.09	132.89	+ 0.18	0.74
Special Sits Growth	24.15	25.69	+ 0.07	2.20
UK Growth	417.81	444.47	+ 1.95	2.71
-do- Accum	580.00	595.74	+ 2.62	2.71

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01620 825867

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1423.50	1444.60†		3.00
Income #	1040.90	1057.90	..	4.00

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Maldon General	158.10	182.20		3.72

For Manulife see Canada Life

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
01244 680 068

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Pfolio	168.90	177.80	+ 0.40	2.12
-do- Accum	196.50	206.90	+ 0.40	2.12
UK Sel Pfolio	145.80	153.50†	+ 0.52	2.49
-do- Accum	173.30	182.50†	+ 0.52	2.49

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 364 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	74.43	79.18	+ 0.30	3.58

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4546

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	78.56	83.40†	+ 0.40	4.14
European	92.30	97.88	- 0.50	1.18
Income #	78.99	83.85†	+ 0.25	4.26
Nth American	82.73	87.82	- 0.11	0.42
Far East	170.90	181.40	..	0.65
Japan	61.66	65.46	- 0.02	..

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Japan Growth	52.52	55.67	+ 0.30	
Managed	76.83	81.73	- 0.60	2.15
Money Market	90.90	96.25	+ 0.03	4.17
North American	106.50	112.90	+ 0.50	0.40
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	108.80	115.70	+ 0.30	1.53
European Growth	109.90	116.50	+ 0.20	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	90.41	95.89	+ 0.17	5.48
Income	91.60	97.45	+ 0.22	2.63
Japan Growth	52.26	55.40	+ 0.30	
Managed	74.15	78.88	+ 0.19	2.11
Money Market	83.87	88.91	+ 0.03	4.13
North American	96.22	102.00	+ 0.40	0.49
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	108.50	115.40	+ 0.40	1.52
European Growth	107.30	113.70	+ 0.10	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	83.08	88.12	+ 0.15	5.60
Income	89.97	95.71	+ 0.21	2.67
Japan Growth	53.46	56.67	+ 0.31	..
Managed	76.97	81.88	- 0.30	2.12
Money Market	77.92	82.60	+ 0.02	4.21
North American	107.60	114.10	+ 0.50	0.37

MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
International (US$)	14.10	14.96		

MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	439.40	466.20	+ 0.80	
European Gth Inc	596.35	629.50†	- 0.80	
-do- Accum	582.60	636.30†	- 0.80	
Intl Gwth	222.50	236.60†	+ 0.60	
UK Equity Inc	205.60	218.70	+ 0.70	2.92
Do. Accum	272.10	289.40	+ 0.90	2.92
UK Ind Trck Inc	179.20	191.50	+ 0.50	2.62
-do- Accum	215.60	230.40	+ 0.60	2.62
US Eq Ind Tr Inc	256.90	272.20	+ 0.20	1.00
Japan Tracker	78.79	83.46†	+ 0.24	
Asian Tracker	214.90	231.70	- 0.30	0.29
Managed Inc	172.50	184.30†	+ 0.20	2.10
Deposit Inc	99.83	99.83†	+ 0.01	5.99
Europa	264.10	285.10	+ 0.60	
Genesis	180.20	195.30†	+ 0.93	1.63
High Income	21.61	22.82	- 0.02	10.00

MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT
0345 090 933

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Acumen	103.70	106.00	- 0.20	2.30
Acumen Inc	95.99	98.12	+ 0.24	2.30
Acumen Reserve	92.28	93.20	+ 0.11	7.95

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sit	121.70	129.50†	+ 0.20	1.59
-do- Accum	133.90	142.50	+ 0.10	1.59
Technology	658.10	700.10	+ 0.60	
UK Blue Chip	78.33	83.33	+ 0.09	3.21
-do- Accum	89.40	95.11	+ 0.11	3.21

PROVIDENT MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 588 3963

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Gth	224.40	238.70	+ 0.20	1.51
European Gth	116.00	123.30	- 0.40	0.94
Income & Gth #	150.70	160.30	+ 0.80	3.19
Japan Gth	119.90	127.50	+ 0.30	.
Nth Amer Gth	198.30	211.00	+ 0.20	0.08
Overseas Gth	115.50	122.90	+ 0.20	0.26

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4490

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	42.16	43.68	+ 0.06	1.70
Cash Haven Inc	101.24	101.73†	+ 0.01	5.78
Cash Haven Acc	115.18	115.75†	+ 0.02	5.78
Dist Trust Inc	104.32	108.18	+ 0.07	5.98
Dist Trust Acc	112.22	116.29	+ 0.20	5.98
Global Growth	99.68	106.04	+ 0.18	1.40
Equity Inc	86.82	92.36†	+ 0.09	3.10
Equity	815.83	867.90	- 7.26	2.18
European	233.38	248.06†	+ 1.06	0.73
High Income	90.47	96.24†	+ 0.03	4.98
Intl Gth	209.48	222.85	- 0.17	0.85
Intl Sm Co	89.03	94.71	+ 0.14	0.45
Japanese	225.09	233.25	+ 0.80	
Nth Amer	220.16	228.14†	- 0.12	1.08
Pacific Mkts	115.42	119.60	- 0.16	0.27
Premier Inc	49.62	51.64	+ 0.11	6.47
Sm Cos	100.81	107.24	+ 0.12	1.42
Spec Sits	119.11	126.71	+ 0.20	2.55
UK Growth	137.58	146.36	+ 0.16	2.11

RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD
01892 510 033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British Life	326.50	346.30	+ 1.10	3.18

ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT
Dealers: 0171 623 1000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FA America (Inc)	630.21	670.25	+ 1.28	0.59
FA America (Acc)	737.03	783.85	+ 1.48	0.59
FA UK Equity Inc	168.32	179.84†	+ 1.26	3.53
FA Japan	256.15	271.62	- 0.37	
FA Mjstc UK Cos	104.97	111.66†	+ 0.48	2.24
FA Smlr UK Cos	328.89	357.64	+ 0.29	1.25
FA European	357.58	380.07	+ 0.58	0.54
FA Amer Smlr Cos	58.68	60.78	- 0.07	0.06
FA Asia	52.55	56.41	+ 0.01	0.06
FA Jap Smlr Cos	43.56	46.58	+ 0.15	
RAM Personal Pension				

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	224.00	238.40†	.	0.36
Wwide Venture Inc	88.57	94.23	+ 0.29	0.74

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT
0131 655 3724

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	409.90	437.20	+ 0.50	2.47
-do- Accum	615.70	656.70	+ 0.70	2.47
UK High Inc	198.80	212.00	+ 0.90	3.40
-do- Accum	297.50	317.70	+ 1.30	3.40
Europe Inc	420.60	448.60	- 6.00	0.48
Nth Amer Inc	283.30	302.10		
Global Inc	240.20	256.20	- 1.50	0.21
Global Acc	258.70	275.90	- 1.70	0.21
UK Spec Sits Inc	113.40	121.00	+ 0.20	2.97
South East Asia	228.20	243.40	- 1.00	0.42
Cash Trust Inc	100.10	100.10		5.99
UK Smlr Cos Inc	111.40	118.80	- 0.10	2.06
-do- Accum	115.30	122.90	- 0.10	2.06
Intl Bond Inc	100.30	106.30	- 0.40	5.26

SEMPER EADEM FUND MGMT LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Recovery	154.00	161.80	- 0.10	4.12

SHARP (ALBERT E)
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	144.30	151.90		0.94
Nth American	133.00	140.00	+ 0.40	0.17
Intl Bond & Conv	128.50	135.30†	+ 0.10	6.59
Pooled Pension (C)	216.40	232.70†		2.09
Smaller Cos	95.57	100.60†	+ 0.20	1.01
UK General	150.70	158.60†	+ 0.40	2.47
Far Eastern	100.30	105.60	+ 0.30	

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD
0171 626 6226

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Gth Fund ‡	123.11		+ 0.05	
Aztec ‡	83.49		- 0.03	..
European ‡	145.39		+ 0.72	0.29
Global Bond ‡	97.50		- 0.17	8.10
Investment Trust ‡	105.27	..	+ 0.02	2.05
Preferred Income ‡	101.86	.	+ 0.31	5.90
Samurai ‡	55.88		+ 0.21	
Sterling Reserve ‡	101.03	.	+ 0.02	6.00
UK Growth ‡	104.97		+ 0.65	2.39
Tai Pan ‡	101.33		- 0.77	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	102.39		+ 0.13	2.92
UK Equity Inc ‡	108.17	.	+ 0.82	5.58
Glob Gwth PEP	70.38	74.88	+ 0.19	1.30
Pref Inc PEP #	102.30	108.10		5.10
Inv Trust PEP	52.47	55.81	- 0.70	.

SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS
0171 637 6377

WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0131 225 1551

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Australasian Gold	25.79	27.14	- 0.11	..
Pacific Basin	44.71	47.06	+ 0.12	
Global Bond (US$)	0.9154	0.9535	+ 0.0017	.
Penny Share	43.49	45.77	- 0.26	

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 623 2444

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Challenger	100.70	103.40†	+ 0.20	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	121.60	128.20	+ 0.30	.
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7685	0.7785		
Gilt Income	53.30	55.36	+ 0.24	6.70
Gilt Growth	77.89	80.95	+ 0.41	
Sterling Bond	50.19	52.05†	+ 0.19	7.00

WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0181 298 4000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Mgd	52.77	56.08	+ 0.35	1.50
UK Stockmarket	90.19	95.94	+ 0.10	2.39

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. ∴ No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge

Equities lose their shine

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2853¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2853¾	− 3¾	4.5	10.6
654	413	Abbey Nat	637	+ 4	3.8	12.8
368	250	Allied Irish	357	− 1	4.0	10.4
298	198	Aus New Z	296	...	5.4	...
4425	2531¼	Bank America†	4343¾	− 62½	...	...
294	191½	Bank Scotland†	290	+ 12	2.6	12.8
812½	567½	Barclays	778	+ 1	3.6	10.6
488	288	Bk of Ireland†	477	..	3.6	9.6
525	418	Cater Allen†	437	..	6.6	7.2
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4350	+ 50	...	...
340½	218¾	Close Bros	325	...	3.3	14.4
£162¾	£139¼	Commerzbk	£153	+ 1¾	3.5	...
1975	983¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1282½	− 6¼	0.4	..
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3153¾	+ 3¾	2.4	...
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	600	− 3¼	6.0	8.0
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1462¾	+ 9¼	0.4	..
490	395	Gerrard Natt	453	...	6.2	14.6
253	180	Hambros†	201	...	4.7	...
1019	588	HSBC	1004½	− 5½	3.5	13.1
994	578	HSBC HK	981	− 6¼	3.6	12.8
398	228	Irish Perm	398	+ 3	3.1	9.2
463	353	Joseph (L)†	460	...	5.1	25.7
145	85	King Shaxson	144	..	7.8	11.2
895	530	Lloyds	875½	− 7½	3.8	13.4
592	479	Nat Aus Bk	582	..	6.9	
697	454	Nat West	667½	+ 2½	4.3	10.4
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.5	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	50	+ 2	2.5	20.0
619	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	586	+ 10	3.5	13.0
1478	906¾	Schroders	1348	+ 5	1.3	19.2
1180	823¼	Schroders NV	1153	+ 3	1.5	16.4
117	81	Singer & Fried	110½	.	4.2	11.4
625	246	Stand Chart	564	− 1	2.0	14.2
417	217	TSB	407	− 4	3.5	14.2
121	70	Union	100	− 2	3.8	
£145¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£143½	− 12½	2.1	...
270	211	Westpac	268¾	...	5.1	..
295	200	Wintrust	270	..	5.3	15.4

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
365	143	Accol Hldgs	365	+ 13	..	0.5
791	487	Bass	727	+ 1	4.0	..
449	239	Boddington	449	+ 1	2.5	23.1
192	137	Burtonwd Brwt	176	..	3.8	17.0
191	137	Eldridge P 'A'	190	...	3.1	..
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	416	.	2.6	17.7
544	402	Greenalls Grp	541	...	3.3	..
658	468	Greene King	631	...	2.9	16.8
297	240	Hardy Hanson	286		4.5	..
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3108	.	2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield†	316	...	2.1	15.9
321	266	Merston Thmpt	306		3.0	14.4

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

BUSINESS SERVICES

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	88¼	ABI Leist	93	− 1	5.8	9.5
595	460	Adams & Harvey†	463	..	5.3	6.1
21	13	Alexanders	17		5.1	28.0
113	88	Appleyard	93	.	8.1	10.0
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	..	2.1	28.5
623	518	BSS Group†	535	..	4.6	15.4
39	31	Bandt	38	...	...	...
24½	15½	Bearing Power†	16½	− ½	9.5	..
28	18	Boyce 'A'	26	...	3.4	9.2
483	345	Brammer	430	+ 1	3.9	18.5
21	10¾	Bridgend Grp†	17¾	.	1.4	..
96	78	Brit Fittings	82	..	4.9	12.4
270	215	Caffyns	250		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	75	...	4.6	20.4
61	35	Cook (DC)	58		3.7	8.4
330¾	220	Cowie	292	− 2	4.0	12.6
155	125	Dag Motors	128	.	7.1	10.4
598	500	Dennans El	503	..	1.9	11.1
501	399	Diploma†	404	− 4	4.5	...
370	235	Electrocomponts†	367	+ 3	2.0	24.9
285	153	Eurodis Elec	263	+ 8	2.0	18.2
235	84	Eurodollar	69	+ 2	14.8	4.0
120	87	European Mtr†	97	..	6.7	8.3
449	280	Evans Halshaw	286	..	6.8	8.9
732	512	Farnell Elect	729	+ 2	1.7	21.2
72	48	Fife Indmar	66	..	6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	17½	..	5.9	7.7
36½	16	Greenbestos	33½	..	1.1	..
108	61	Gowrings	86	..	3.3	14.3
210	148	Harris (Philip)	210	+ 5	4.4	13.2
201	142	Headlam	201	...	2.6	17.6
554	258	Heywrs	496	...	2.5	18.5
137	81	Holders Tech	134	...	5.6	25.5
163	88	ISA Intl	154	..	1.3	16.9
430	200	Inchcape†	230	+ 12	8.2	20.9
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60	...	1.6	11.4
187	142	Kwik-Fit	177	.	3.2	15.1
358¾	264½	Lex Service	299	+ 5	6.0	15.9
195	146	Lookers	149	.	6.4	8.2
22	9	Malaya Grp	11½	...	5.2	15.5
9¾	5	Middlesex	8¾	..	0.8	18.9
71	36	Motorsales	38	+ 1	..	5.4
534	330	Nortain	495	− 2	1.9	16.9
259	78	Northamber	258	+ 1	0.9	30.7
155	135	PCT	137	...	7.0	9.8
283	225	Pendragon	273	.	3.8	14.3
166	123	Perry Gp	147	..	6.5	11.1
146	126	Quicks Group	140	...	5.1	11.9
198	160	REA	185	..	2.7	22.0
3¼	2¼	Reece	2¾	...	...	...
73	48	Rossige	56	...	2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3½	...	...	...
63½	37½	SEP Intl	59½	− 2	3.4	..
17½	8½	Sattire	13½	+ 1	...	7.7
74½	38	TLS	71	...	3.3	12.1
266	226	Time Products†	249	.	4.6	14.8
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273	− 2	2.6	17.3
325	240	Wholesale Figs	325	.	4.5	20.3

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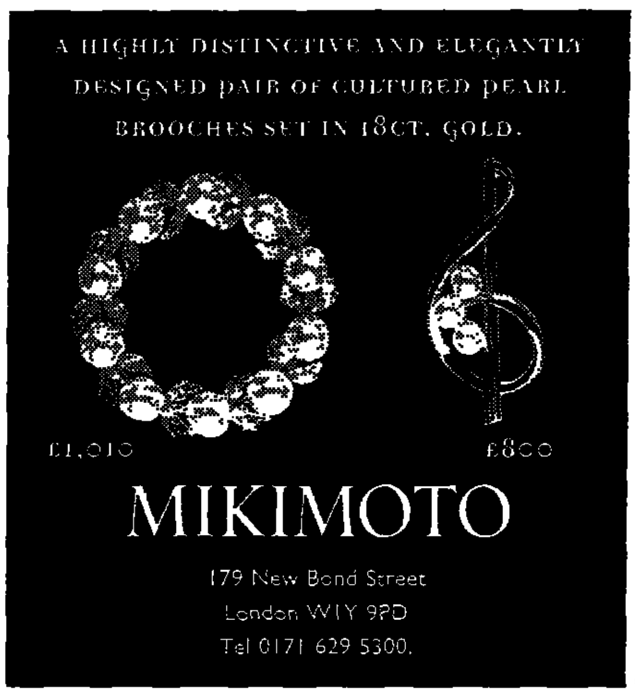

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SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
603	443	Anglian†	593	− 2	5.8	8.9
366	305	Mid Kent Hdgs†	353	..	4.8	9.5
641	467¾	North West▼	589	+ 1	5.7	7.5
1175	676	Northumbrian†	1109	...	3.2	9.1
685	475	Severn Trent	672	+ 4	5.6	8.0
2353	1855	South Staffs†	2353	+ 28	3.8	13.7
555	459	South West†	502	+ 9	7.9	7.0
731	517	Southern	667	+ 9	5.2	8.5
575	456	Thames†	567	+ 1	5.8	7.7
800	592¾	Welsh†	736	+ 4	7.2	8.7
109	100½	Welsh Cm Pit	109	+ ¼	9.4	...
361	256¾	Wessex	333	+ 2	5.3	7.0
677½	472	Yorkshire†	606	+ 5	5.9	7.8

Source: Finstat

● USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

هكذا من الأصل

■ THEATRE 1

The Donmar's new staging of Sondheim's *Company* tones down the urban angst

■ THEATRE 2

Jane Austen is brought to life, at some length, in the one-woman show *My Solitary Elegance*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

On the 25th anniversary of Barbirolli's death, the LPO and Barenboim pay tribute

■ MUSIC 2

... while the Philharmonia and Rozhdestvensky surge through a programme of Russian epics

THEATRE: Sondheim's anti-marriage musical mellows; reviews from the Fringe

Finding bliss in blisters

Company
Donmar Warehouse

Stephen Sondheim is supposed to feel about marriage the way crustacea feel about being boiled in water or pickled in formaldehyde. Certainly, the current revival of *A Little Night Music* at the National leaves that impression, for its main characters are a husband frustrated by his wife's frigidity and a wife destroyed by her husband's infidelities. Yet here is a slightly earlier musical on the same theme which I recall as the most jaundiced Sondheim ever created, and suddenly it seems affirmative, even upbeat. What has changed since 1972 — the show, me, the presentation, or the American zeitgeist?

All, probably. Sondheim and his librettist, George Furth, appear to have done some adding, subtracting and quiet mellowing. I did not hear the exchange in which Robert, the indecisive bachelor at the centre of *Company*, asked one of his girlfriends if she knew any happy couples, and she dryly replied: "I know both, and they're both divorced." Moreover, Sam Mendes's chamber production strikes me as warmer, gentler and more kindly than Hal Prince's original.

Glum phalanxes of wives and husbands no longer pose like waxworks beneath the grey-steel scaffolding of a set like a high-tech prison. That wonderful song about urban stress, *Another Hundred People*, remains in place: but there is far less emphasis on New York's lonely canyons. You could no longer say, as Sondheim once did, that the show "compares contemporary marriage and the island of Manhattan". Almost everything occurs in a barish loft with walkways above and brightly coloured squares flashing behind, and much seems to be happening in the head of its owner, Adrian Lester's flummoxed Robert.

But the greatest change has happened outside the theatre. In 1972 marriage was more the norm, and a writer who suggested it was often unhappy and always nerve-racking seemed cynical. Now we make fewer marriages and take their failure more for granted, so a writer who suggests that some may have their pluses seems oddly optimistic. *Company* is inspecting much the same bottle, but time has made it look half-full instead of half-empty.

Mendes's revival delivers less of a kick, then, but is hardly sentimental. There is something sinister and menacing about Robert's married chums as they enter chanting his name at the start of the surprise party they are throwing for his 35th birthday. Nor are his subsequent encounters very encouraging to a chap with doubts about breakfast-table bliss. Competition, deceit, games-playing, childishness all clearly have their place in modern wedlock.

Robert finds himself stopping a half-serious karate bout between Clive Rowe's Harry and Rebecca Front's Sarah. He mawkishly congratulates Clare Burt's Susan and Gareth Snook's Peter on their happiness, only to find they are about to divorce. He watches Sheila Gish's much-married Joannne getting aggressively drunk and Sophie Thompson's Amy deciding she cannot go to the altar with her oppressively affectionate long-time lover, Michael Simkins's Paul.

Sondheim's brash, bold harmonies are sometimes allowed to overwhelm his even more brilliant lyrics; but not here. Thompson's panicky paean to the awfulness of being adored sums up the show's tone and thrust. Here and elsewhere Sondheim emerges as the bard of emotional ambivalence. Marriage is limiting, fulfilling, a denial of freedom, a triumph over loneliness. It's being "scared she's drifting away and scared she'll stay", it's "the concerts you enjoy together, the children you destroy together", and much, much more.

Robert's friends add to the confusion by envying him his bachelor fun, attacking him as immature, praising and rubbishing his girlfriends, and trying to sleep with him. After all that, his last-gasp conversion to marriage is in danger of seeming trite, and did so in 1972. But a splendidly hesitant new song called *Marry Me a Little* prepares the way, and Lester's robust delivery of the final number takes him home. He wants "someone to need me too much, someone to know me too well, someone to pull me up short, someone to put me through hell". It is the right conclusion to a vastly enjoyable evening.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Amy (Sophie Thompson), Robert (Adrian Lester) and April (Hannah James) in the revival of *Company*

Austen under the bonnet

My Solitary Elegance
New End, NW3

EVERYBODY loves Jane Austen. These days her novels, as seen on television, are bonneted blockbusters. Her satirised sillies and romantic heroines are a dramatiser's joy. But what about the authoress herself? A staged life of Austen is not so easy. We do not know a great deal about this essentially retiring woman who published anonymously and never married, remembered by one of her nieces as "very absent indeed". Her beloved sister Cassandra, who drew the only (and hardly consummate) portrait we have, carefully destroyed her most revealing letters.

My Solitary Elegance, the actress Judith French's depiction of the authoress, is a theatrically modest affair. Indeed, this being a one-woman show, French's Austen is so solitary that we find her conversing with prerecorded acquaintances. Austen's father, the Rev George Austen, is heard clumping about inside the loudspeaker to boot.

Still French, far prettier than Cassandra's sketch, is pertly animated, cocking an ironic eyebrow and scribbling away with her quill as she reads from Austen's writings. The piece is biographically illuminating, charting Austen's life from her childhood in the Hampshire village of Steventon, through her early ballroom flirtations to acceptance of spinsterhood, then literary success and a regrettably early death.

French's sparkily amused Austen makes more sense than the picture of an embittered maiden aunt suggested by some literary historians, though her performance is too smilingly cute for Austen's sharpest quips and she should surely faze out the childish toddle after the early scenes. French's enactment of Austen's mock-Gothic heroes forever gasping their last is charmingly funny, even if further down the line Austen's supposedly sad end teeters on the risible as our own Jane starts rasping between subclauses, regular as clockwork.

The piece, at more than two hours, is too long by half and its snippet structure does not build to a satisfactory finish. But the extracts from Austen's literary juvenilia and surviving correspondence are refreshing and sparklingly witty, including an adolescent playlet in which drawing-room manners go to the dogs when guests outnumber chairs. A snappier reworking of French's frequently entertaining script, perhaps in scenic National Trust surrounds rather than a black box studio, might be attended with very little fatigue.

KATE BASSETT

Name your own Christmas poison

Dinner with the Borgias/ Croydon
Santa Stole my Giro/ Old Red Lion

BOTH these shows assume that a jokey title is today's equivalent of a capering fellow dressed in red and yellow waving a bladder over his head. Medieval barons knew they could leave their brains by the portcullis while the jester ran through his quips about the nun and the troubadour; today we can feel just as confident that Roy Smiles's *Dinner with the Borgias* at the Warehouse in Croydon will not greatly assist us to understand the political intentions of Cesare, Lucrezia and Pope Alexander VI.

The success of plays of this kind, quirkily constructed and quaintly performed, is directly proportional to the actors' charm and cheek. They defy us to reject them because, after all, it's Christmas, innit? K. Carney's comedy at Islington, *Santa Stole my Giro*, is thus the more engaging of this pair, not simply because its cast have funnier things to say and do but because they are cheerier and more likeable.

Carney's story offers generous scope for individual display. We are in a television studio back in 1974 where a naff show called *Mr and Mrs* is being rehearsed. A villain, plotting revenge against the creepy presenter, disguises himself as Santa Claus, and it is a mark of the casual plotting that the story would scarcely be altered if he dressed up as Guy Fawkes or the Queen of the May. Paranormal interference in the mystery booth brings Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim into the present day, soon followed by a camp Dr Watson, whose nickname for his detective friend — the sleuth from the booth — is Shirley.

People start disappearing, chiefly because they have to stride off, change costume and return as those who are searching for them. The acting is clever but wayward, and some eccentric music cues in Ken McClymont's production require the cast to become quick-thinking scriptwriters.

Jamie Roberts and Jay Simpson are winningly winsome as the Cratchits, their sexual exploits sparking off several indecent jokes, though only one about crutches, and we are given an absurd dialogue between two glum Scouse electricians made up entirely of lines from Beatles songs. A drink or two beforehand would aid enjoyment.

Sex is also what the Borgias are after, down in Croydon, but they are not so funny about it. Cesare fancies one of Leonardo da Vinci's daughters, the Pope fancies the other one, and Lucrezia has the hots for Machiavelli (Kevin Williams). This sounds as if the complications could be fruitful, especially as one actress plays both the Misses da Vinci, but it does not turn out that way. In his Christmas show last year, Smiles used the same device of a protagonist frantically trying to avoid death and sundry maidens, but his touch there was defter. Invention this time is ponderous, and the *Last Supper* painting jokes were funnier in the John Cleese skit they are lifted from. Ted Craig directs. Drink copiously beforehand.

JEREMY KINGSTON

LONDON ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

The gift of great touch

LPO / Barenboim
Festival Hall

LAST Wednesday's emotional return to the London concert platform by Daniel Barenboim brought more than it had promised. He played not one, but two piano concertos, and conducted the first from the keyboard — a change to the advertised programme (no Zubin Mehta, no Elgar First Symphony) that few in a packed Festival Hall seemed to mind. The occasion was the London Philharmonic's Sir John Barbirolli Memorial Concert, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the great conductor's death, and there could have been few more fitting soloists: Barbirolli made concerto recordings with the young Barenboim and encouraged his conducting career, something Barenboim always recalls with affectionate gratitude.

But hearing Barenboim play Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 again made one regret some of the time this most natural of musicians has spent on the podium. He remains a consummate pianist, and the only unsatisfying part of this performance was the orchestral opening, which sounded too deliberate under Barenboim's fitful conducting. Although he remained alert to the orchestra throughout — flicking directions at the players when even the shortest of rests gave him a free hand — once absorbed in the solo part, he exuded calm musical authority. He conjured up an impressive range of pianistic colour, from the shimmering arpeggios that follow the first-movement cadenza to the playful brightness of the Rondo. In the Beethoven, at least, he appeared to have lost none of his touch.

In Brahms's demanding Second Piano Concerto, he was less secure but he caught the rapt intensity of the slow movement and graceful humour of the finale. The real problem here lay with the conducting of Lawrence Foster. No Brahmsian, he missed the work's dramatic sweep and found little of its poignancy.

Barbirolli himself was not well served by the dusting off of his *Elizabethan Suite* as the concert's opening work. His arrangements of Byrd's *The Earl of Salisbury's Pavane* and four pieces from *The Fitzwilliam Virginal Book* may have been of pioneering interest when they were made in 1941, but one does not have to be a militant authenticist to find them feeble now. Foster and the London Philharmonic strings and horns gave the suite an amiable airing.

JOHN ALLISON

Sure feet on the steppes

Philharmonia / Rozhdestvensky
Festival Hall

THE Philharmonia's end-of-year celebratory concert was loud and long. Scheherazade luxuriated in her tale-telling, if not 1,001 of them, then almost as many: Prokofiev's colossus of a Second Piano Concerto bestrode the second half; and the Polovtsi celebrated their invasion of the entire Russian steppes — as well as the culmination of the Philharmonia's fiftieth anniversary season — with their great sequence of dances.

And over all this monumentalism ruled the master of the eloquent calligraphy of conducting, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky. The clarity and wit of his baton make his concerts as unfailingly pleasurable to watch as to listen to. Every jewelled colour in Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite *Scheherazade* was touched into place by its tip as if an exquisite lacquer box were being decorated.

Like her husband, the pianist Viktoria Postnikova also knows how to contain music's might in a taut, undemonstrative frame. From the piano's early distant white light, there was an almost imperceptible amassing of inner strength in the opening song of Prokofiev's Second Concerto. Delineated by the most precise, yet apparently effortless, placing of weight and measure, it grew to its mighty cadenza which, in Postnikova's hands, spoke with all the individual voices of the orchestra itself.

The octave semiquavers which never cease their dance in the Scherzo were held in perfect equipoise with the orchestra's own soloists, before the lumbering grotesquerie of the Intermezzo, teased out with finely-toned muscle.

The Philharmonia Chorus was at last given its voice in the *Polovtsian Dances* from Borodin's *Prince Igor*. The sopranos were properly suspended on the wings of the wind; altos found dark Slavic vowels they may well have never known they had; and the male cohorts of the Khan sang his praises with a lucid vigour of which the composer would have been proud.

HILARY FINCH

It's in the Bag!

k.d. lang
All You Can Eat

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Christmas at HMV

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■ CHOICE 1

Fairy-dust all round in a danced version of *Cinderella*

VENUE: Opens tomorrow at Sadler's Wells

■ CHOICE 2

Thomas Allen leads the carols in concert with the LSO

VENUE: On Sunday at the Barbican

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ CHOICE 3

Diana Ross winds up the "greatest music party in the world"

VENUE: Sunday at the NEC in Birmingham

■ VISUAL ART

Hiding our heritage: how the National Gallery protected its treasures from the bombs

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

CINDERELLA: Matthew Hart's fairy-dust sprinkled production for London City Ballet opens tomorrow. The Royal Ballet's dancer keeps true to his flair for detailed and whimsical choreography, maintaining the magic of the tale if not in as classical a style as some might like.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000). Sat, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat and Dec 20, 26, 27, 29, 2.30pm ♿

MUSIC AROUND TOWN: The **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** opens the weekend at the Barbican, with Yuri Temirkanov conducting and pianist John Lill. Richard Hickox leads the **City of London Sinfonia** tomorrow for Handel's *Messiah*, and appears again with baritone Thomas Allen and the **London Symphony Orchestra** for carols on Sunday. The *Glory of Christmas* is celebrated on Sunday afternoon. Over in the West End, the **Wigmore** offers one of its few carol indulgences on Saturday, while at St John's the award-winning gospel choir **London Adventist Chorale** opens another Magenta Christmas Festival. Finally, at the South Bank, pianist Nikolai Demidenko joins Alexander Lazarev and the **London Philharmonic** for a Russian programme tonight, with **Richard Goode**'s very last recital in his acclaimed Beethoven Piano Sonatas series, two carol concerts and period costume frivolities tomorrow. Children's orchestras and **Gillian Humphrey's Winter Serenade** feature on Sunday.
Barbican, EC2 ♿ (0171-638 8891) **South Bank**, SE1 ♿ (RFH and QEH only) (0171-960 4242). **Wigmore Hall**, W1 ♿ (0171-935 2141). **St John's**, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061)

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: The billing calls it "the greatest music party in the world" and the weekend-long event is certainly star-studded. **East 17** top the bill tonight, with Michelle Gayle among the guests; **Eternal** are on tomorrow with Boyzone and D.Ream, and **Diana Ross** takes over on Sunday with Soul II Soul and Ultimate Kaos.
NEC, Hall 5, Junction 6, M42 (0121-780 4133). ♿

LIVERPOOL: It is, of course, carols, carols everywhere this weekend, and the **Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir** adds its "voice" with concerts tonight and tomorrow. Ian Tracey conducts.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). 7.30pm. ♿

GLASGOW: Scottish Opera For All, the company's education arm, hosts two Christmas concerts this weekend. Pupils of Balmuildy Primary School were selected from over 80 schools, and will be joined by Scottish opera favourites Lisa Milne and Ann Archibald.
Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street (0141 332 9000). Tonight, 7.30 and Sat, 2.30pm.

SNAPE: Simon Halsey and the City of Birmingham Touring Opera offer a real treat tomorrow: Glyndebourne artistic director Graham Vick's scintillating production of Verdi's comic masterpiece, **Falstaff**. Hugh Maguire and the Britten-Pears Orchestra offer magic and passion on Sunday with works from Humperdinck, Britten, Tchaikovsky and Rimsky-Korsakov.
Concert Hall (0728 453543). Sat, 7.30 and Sun, 3.30pm. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum, Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) . . . **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine**: William Turnbull: sculpture and paintings (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate**: Colin Self: The Art of War 1939-45 (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**
Welcome transfer from the Donmar for Sam Mendes' radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner continue as mother and daughter; Ben Walden comes in as the new Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, plus Dec 28 and Jan 4, 3pm.

☐ **HYSTERIA:** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm ♿

◩ **THE JUNGLE BOOK:** Tim Supple's vigorous, utterly enjoyable adaptation of three Mowgli stories. A refreshing relief from Disney cuteness.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight, 7pm, ring box office for schedule. ♿

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE:** Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Dec 18, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm

◩ **ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD:** Adrian Scarborough and Simon Russell Beale play Stoppard's attendant lords; Matthew Francis directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm, Sat, 2.15 and 7.30pm ♿

◩ **THE TOWER.** Alexandre Dumas' romantic melodrama, with Sinead Cusack as a scheming Queen Marguerite, and Adrian Dunbar as the agent of her downfall. Howard Davies directs a version by Charles Wood.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm ♿

☐ **SON OF MAN:** Dennis Potter's story of the life of Christ (Joseph Fiennes), religious rebel. Strong acting, good design, unclear purpose.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2pm. ♿

◩ **THREE TALL WOMEN:** Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Final week.

◩ **TRAINSPOTTING.** Irving Welsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger and vomit. Limited London season after record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 5pm.

◩ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm. ♿

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG): Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of *Beauty and the Beast*, with Jean Marais and Josette Day.
Everyman ♿ (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

THE SHOOTER (18): US marshal (Dolph Lundgren) comes to Prague to prevent an assassination. Video fodder, directed by Ted Kotcheff.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U): Wizard threatens wedding of Prince Derek and Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG): Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. Dawdling romantic fantasy directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE TIE THAT BINDS** (18): Nasty thriller about child adoption, with Keith Carradine and Daryl Hannah. Director, Wesley Strick.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15): What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director, Rob Reiner.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGM Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean, Izabella Scorupco and Famke Janssen. Director, Martin Campbell.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18). Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

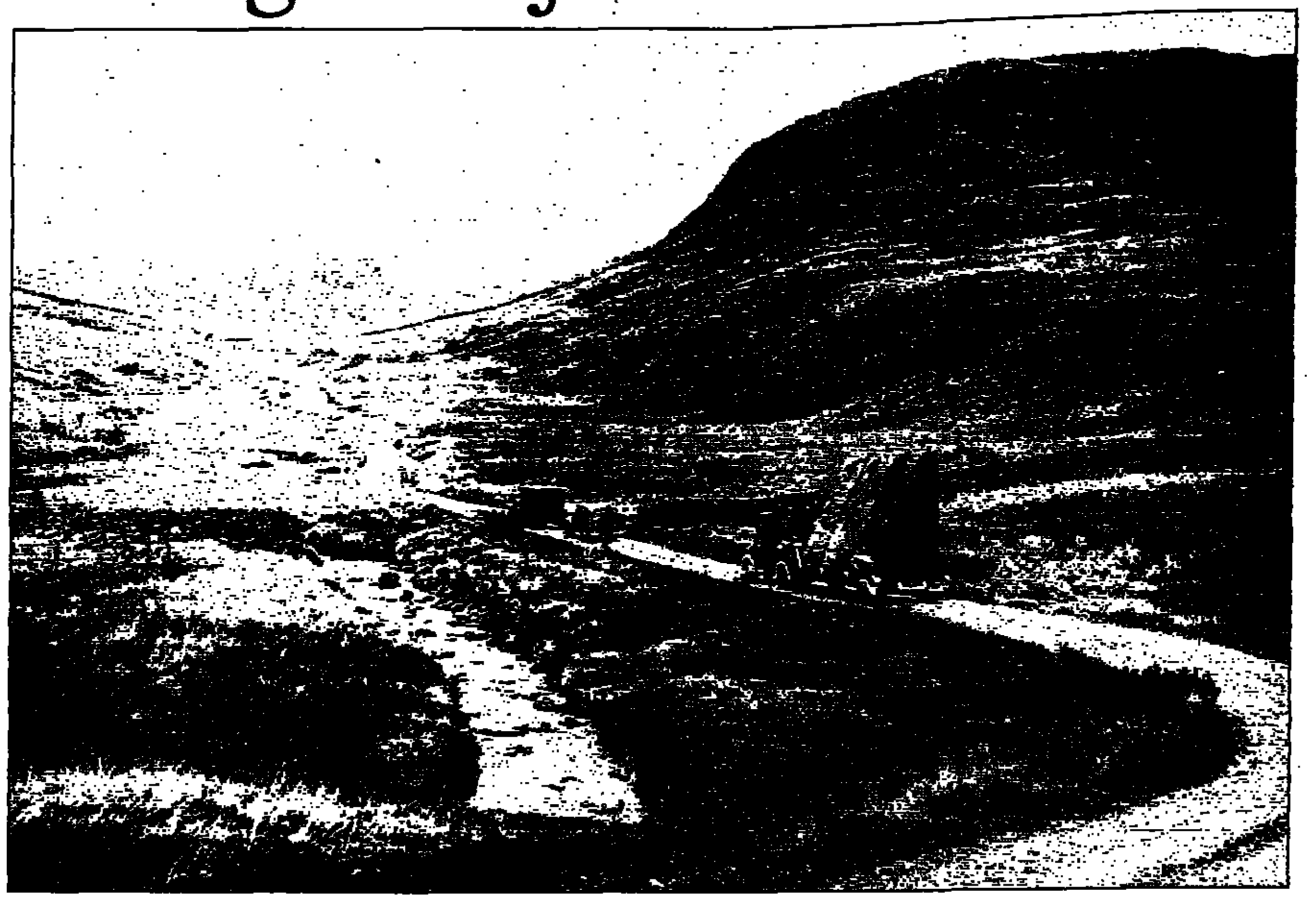
◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. Director, John Pasquin.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG): Diane Keaton directs this eccentric heart-warmer about a boy's charmed life with crazy relatives. With Nathan Witt, Andie MacDowell, John Turturro.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366)

In 1941 our finest paintings were put in an old slate mine. **Isabel Carlisle** reports

How the gallery went to war



Canvases under canvas: pictures from the National Gallery are spirited away to their wartime refuge in North Wales

The National Gallery has mounted an exhibition which must be a first — it has not a single painting in it. This is a documentary show about the gallery and its collection during the Second World War, a collection of photographs, news clippings and original letters about the time when the building became virtually pictureless.

The show also conjures up the appalling vision of what might have been the fate of the national collection. In May 1940, a gallery trustee suggested that the paintings should be transported to Canada by ship for safekeeping. But for Churchill's emphatic refusal — "Hide them in caverns and cellars, but not one picture shall leave this island" — and the reluctance of the director, Kenneth Clark, they could have ended up at the bottom of the Atlantic.

In August 1939 the gallery had closed its doors and sent the paintings to three secret sites in Wales and a private house in Gloucestershire. After the capitulation of France in May 1940, however, bombing was a threat even in Wales and, as a film shot in 1941 shows, six brick storerooms were created in an old slate mine at Manod, above the Welsh village of Ffestiniog. The preparations took more than a year; the last painting was not put in store there until September 18, 1941.

Mines and country houses from here to Poland and Russia became repositories for war booty as well as national collections. Although this exhibition has confined itself to archive material it would have been fascinating to know which of the National Gallery's paintings were among Hitler's choices for the Führer museum that he planned for Linz.

The gallery building itself was not turned over to government offices as had been expected. Instead it became a focus for music and art in a city where both were strictly rationed. Lunchtime classical concerts took place every weekday, organised by the concert pianist Myra Hess. They brought a whole range of people into the gallery who would not necessarily have come to see the paintings in peacetime. "Tommies in their uniform with their tin hats strapped on, old ladies with ear trumpets, musical students, civil servants, office boys, busy public men," as Clark put it.

So great was the reluctance to see the concerts end after the war that they continued until April 1946. The profitable lunch canteens set up to feed the concert-goers seem to have inadvertently become the prototype of the museum café.

Just as influential in shaping wartime attitudes to the gallery was the decision to bring back one masterpiece a month. Risking direct hits by daytime enemy action, this was displayed at the top of the entrance hall steps, and taken down each night to be stored in a bomb shelter. In his instructions to Manod to initiate the Picture of the Month scheme, Clark wrote: "People do not want to see Dutch painting or realistic painting of any kind: no doubt at the present time they are anxious to contemplate a nobler order of humanity. The two that have been most often asked for are the El Greco *Agony in the Garden* and the Titian *Noli me tangere*." The Titian was the first to be shown. Bellini's *Agony in the Garden* brought 30,978 visitors over the five weeks it was on show, Botticelli's *Mars and Venus* 34,346. In addition, the gallery mounted a constantly changing display of works by war artists such as John Piper, Paul Nash, Stanley Spencer, Edward Ardizzone, Eric Ravillous and Graham Sutherland. There were exhibitions of modern art and one of French 19th-century painting.

What this exhibition does not convey is the fundamental change in public perception of the gallery that took place during the war years. Despite the risks involved, the gallery had not neglected its public. Under the enlightened directorship of Clark it responded to the realisation that art mattered, and mattered especially in times of crisis. Apart from visitors to the exhibitions in the gallery, 824,000 people had attended the concerts. It is not too fantastic to suppose that the passions aroused four years ago by the architectural schemes proposed for the new Sainsbury Wing to the gallery have their roots in the great public affection the gallery attracted during the Second World War, and still commands today.

- The National Gallery and the Second World War *is in Room 1 at the National Gallery until Feb 11*

Warbling romance

FESTIVAL

Academic State Choir of Armenia
Queen Elizabeth Hall

FRANKLY, the Academic State Choir of Armenia was something of a disappointment. Its first major visit to London was heralded as a highlight of the current *Arts of Armenia* festival in the capital, and it attracted a capacity audience from the Armenian community. So it felt like an event, but as a musical experience it was like stepping into a time warp.

It is all too easy to romanticise national choral traditions: the British are, after all, no exception. In the case of Armenia, that tradition is essentially a 19th-century phenomenon that has been preserved, unadulterated by more modern trends and influences, for the best part of 100 years while laying claim to a much older heritage. Thus, the "ancient and wonderful" sacred music, as it was proclaimed in the publicity, is basically conveyed through a highly Romantic interpretation of that old repertory. How old the melodies are is not clear, but these arrangements by Aidinian, Haroutunian and Komitas consist of essentially late 19th-century harmonisations. The key figure in this national musical revival was Komitas (1869-1935), whose folksong settings formed the second half of the concert.

These rather selfconscious pieces, often quite extended with contrasting sections, drew the best singing from the choir under its conductor of more than 30 years, Ohannes Tchekidjian. Non-Western elements in the music were most apparent in the modal qualities of the melodies and certain vocal flourishes. These were heightened by the manner of singing. Its peculiar intensity derives from the combination of a pronounced vibrato and a strongly nasal resonance, heard at its best in the affecting solo by the bass Albert Khatchadurian. However, in the choral sections, the competing vibratos, especially of the sopranos, proved wearing on the ear, and failed to hide the woolly pitching of the lower voices.

Perhaps it is unfair to apply Western European ideals to a tradition that clearly has its roots further to the east. And there are those features commonly associated with Russian choirs which completely elude their Western counterparts: those gravelly basses; that unique, almost disembodied *pianissimo*; a sudden, snatched crescendo. Tchekidjian was especially keen on this last, and it has to be said that the attention given his every gesture by the choir was extraordinary by any standard.

TESS KNIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

A MAJOR EXHIBITION of Russian & soviet art at the Roy Miles Gallery. 29 Bruton Street, W1. 0171-495 4747

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton St, W1. 0171-493 2107. An exhibition of MODERN BRITISH ARTISTS 1900-1945. 27 Nov-20 Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1. 10-6 daily. Recorded info 0171-439 4996/7. Advance Booking 0171-494 5676. AFRICA: THE ART OF A CONTINENT. DAVID HOCKNEY: A DRAWING RETROSPECTIVE

ROY MILES GALLERY. New works by SERGEI CHEPIK now on view. 29 Bruton Street, W1

THE SMALL PAINTINGS GROUP until 22 Dec. Duncan Campbell, 15 Thackeray St, W8 0171 937 8665 Mo-Fri 11-6, Sat 10-5

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.30 TURANDOT Tomor 7.30 LA BELLE VIVETTE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Tomor, Tue 7.30 AIDA The Royal Ballet Ton't, Mon, Wed 7.30 TWYLA THARP ROSSINI BALLET Thur 7.00 (First Night) LES PATINEURS/ TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 071 960 4242 ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET THE NUTCRACKER 18 December-6 January SWAN LAKE 8-13 January

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards including BEST MUSICAL Starring ELAINE PAIGE 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 8884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grp 0171 413 3311 "FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE" D.Exp FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE SIXTH STOMPING YEAR Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45 LAST 5 WEEKS Fri & Sat 6pm perf:Top 4 prices 2 for 1 No Performance Mon 25 Dec

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 NIAMH CUSACK MARGARET TYZACK PAUL BHATTACHARJEE INDIAN INK "TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END" Today. Directed by PETER WOOD LAST 4 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6

AMBASSADORS 836 6111/420 0100/344 4444 For 7 weeks only TRAINSPOTTING Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel "Feverishly Funny" Guardian Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5 Press Night Tonight 7.00pm

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 From Dec 18 Mon-Fri 11.30 & 3.00 W/C Dec 25 Tue-Sat 11.30 & 3.00 SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50 NO PERF 25 DEC EXTRA MAT 28 DEC AT 3PM

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000. Eves 8, Mats Thu 3, 5 & 8.15 HAYLEY MILLS "Magnificent" F.T JENNY SEAGROVE "Impeccable" Times DEAD GUILTY "Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER" S.Times

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm No Performance Mon 25 Dec

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL 12 - 16 Dec A PASSIONATE WOMAN The Smash Hit Comedy Direct from London's West End BOOK ON 01243 781312

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 - cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee) ZOË WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS Directed by Sam Mendes Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON Extra Mats 28 Dec & 4 Jan at 3pm No Perfs 25, 26 Dec & 1 Jan

CRITERION 369 1747/420 0000/ 344 4444 JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB "wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" D.Mail Tues-Sat 8, Sat 4, Sun 3 & 7 "NB 2 SUN PERFS AT 3 & 7" "RED PRICE PREVS NOW!" "GALA OPENING 19 DEC AT 7"

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 GREASE Starring SHANE RICHIE and SAMANTHA JANUS "Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun." Daily Mirror Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE EXTRA MAT 28 DEC 3PM

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm No performance Mon 25 Dec Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/9837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs, no fee) ROYAL COURT CLASSICS Henry Goodman Aisling O'Sullivan Fred Pearson Tim Potter HYSTERIA Terry Johnson's "CUSTARD PIE OF COMIC BRILLIANCE" Time Out Best Comedy Olivier Award FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY Eves 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 DAVID BURKE ANDREW HAVILL Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A real thrill of horror" S.Times NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238 "A real treat for 3-9 year olds" Gdn THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP Opens today at 1.30 & 3.30

FORTUNE Cov.Gdn 0171 836 2238 'One of the finest performances on the West End stage' What's On MARIE "A breath of fresh air" Times EVERY SUNDAY 3.30pm

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no bkg fee) WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre production JB Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D.Mail "ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s" E.S "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D.Tel FINAL LONDON SEASON Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD Shaftesbury Ave inc cc 0171 494 5530 (no bkg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 JULIA McKENZIE COMMUNICATING DOORS by ALAN AYCKBOURN "A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY" D.Tel "with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT" Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 No Performance Mon 25 Dec

SUNDAY in COVENT GARDEN MARIE "quite astonishing" BBC See FORTUNE THEATRE

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY ALAN BATES GEMMA JONES 'superb' Times 'marvellous' Gdn THE MASTER BUILDER 'Peter Hall's fine new staging' D.Tel 'Not to be missed on any account' S.Tms. ONLY 4 MORE WEEKS! Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO 28 SEPT 96 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns Extra Mat Thu 28 Dec at 3.00 No perf Mon 25 Dec

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3321 JIM DALE RETURNS TO THE WEST END "A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Daily Mail OLIVER! 2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR 'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE' S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2.30 No Performance Mon 25 Dec SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5580 cc 0171 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Nichola McAuliffe Graham Turner and Frank Thornton HOBSON'S CHOICE by Harold Brighouse "MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter" D.Tel "Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT" Std Eves 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 No Performance Mon 25 Dec EXTENDED TO 3 FEB

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252: Grps 0171 620 0741;24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000 OLIVIER Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler LYTTLETON Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.15 & 7.30 ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD Tom Stoppard COTTESLOE Ton't 7.00, Tomor 1.30 & 7.00 RICHARD II William Shakespeare

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Extra Mats 27, 28 Dec at 3pm No Mat 26 Dec No Performance Mon 25 Dec LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 6655/312 8034 The Royal National Theatre's THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS "AN ABSOLUTE WINNER" Time Out MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES... UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE" Daily Mail "A WONDERFUL EVENING" F.T "AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE" LNR Some Good Seats Still Available Before Christmas Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 2.30 No Performance Mon 25 Dec Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 "WINNER!" BEST MUSICAL Evening Standard Award '95 "ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS" D.Express "JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS" D.Mail MACK & MABEL THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE Mon-Sat at 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00 Extra Mat Thurs Dec 28 at 3.00

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) DAVID CASSIDY STARS FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY IN WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS STEPHANIE LAWRENCE CARL WAYNE ...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 "EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT FUNNY MONEY "LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER" D. Exp "Better than Feydeau...priceless" D. Tel Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00 "EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3"

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123. BEST MUSICAL Laurence Olivier Awards 93 'YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT' D.Mail CRAZY FOR YOU "IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS GOLDMINE OF A SHOW" S.Times Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 3pm No Performance Mon 25 Dec GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321 TOMMY STEELE WHAT A SHOW 'Tommy's Show packs Flash, Bang, Wallop' Eve Standard Evgs Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm. For a Limited Season

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: A CHRISTMAS CAROL Ton't 7.15 THE PIT: SON OF A MAN Ton't 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623) RST: ROMEO AND JULIET Ton't 7.30 SWAN: THE DEVIL IS AN ASS Ton't 7.30 TOP: THE PAINTER OF DISHONOUR Tomor 7.30

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr Bkg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents MARTIN GUERRE A New Musical by BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG FROM 22 MAY 1996

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 bkg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444 Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 8.45pm & Sat 6pm & 8.45pm LILY SAVAGE PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H THE MUSICAL "Hilarious" F.T. "A Huge Hit - A Christmas Smash" Obs 5 WEEKS ONLY! Stalls & D.C. £12.50-£24.00, Upper Circle £8.50

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 grps 312 1970 No bkg fee BELINDA LANG KEVIN McNALLY in Terry Johnson's award winning comedy DEAD FUNNY "Blissfully Witty and Wicked" Eve Stand Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm Sat mat 5pm & Wed mat 2.30pm

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/bkg fee) IT'S BACK - 4 WEEKS ONLY 19 DEC-13 JAN INC MATS RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY "deliriously addictive" D.Tel Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri, Sat 5 & 8.30 No perf on Mon 25 Dec Extra mat Dec 27 at 2.30

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 CC 0171 344 4444 Until 16 Dec EDDIE IZZARD ENTIRE RUN SOLD OUT Queue daily for returns Tues - Sat 8pm & Sun 7.30pm

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 0171 344 4444 (24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 0171 413 3321 TOMMY PAUL KEATING As Tommy KIM WILDE As Mrs Walker Previews 20 February. Opens 5 March

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1994 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 44th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123 *BUDDY* The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun *BUDDY* "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel *BUDDY* Tues-Thurs 8.0 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sats 5.00 & 8.30, Suns 4.00 ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF 7th HEAVENLY YEAR

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (no bkg fee) "For a sparkling, affectionate and hilarious evening in the theatre, go and see The RSC production of THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE" The Times "This hugely enjoyable show" Daily Telegraph Mon-Fri 8.00pm Sat 8.30pm Mats Wed 2.30pm Sat 5.30pm. No Performance Mon 25 Dec

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1990/497 9977 Groups 0171 312 1997 (no fee) /0171 930 6123 (bkg fee) BRIAN CONLEY "Gives the performance of the decade" Mail on Sunday in *JOLSON* "A resounding hit" Sun. Tel *JOLSON* "Worth walking a million miles to see" D.Mail *JOLSON* Evgs Mon-Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Now booking to 30 Sep 96

WHITEHALL 369 1735/344 4444/ 420 0000 "BEST NEW MUSICAL IN TOWN...BRILLIANT" MoS ROY ORBISON STORY GUEST-STARRING P.J. PROBY ½ PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF Tues-Thu 8, Fri, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Sun 4

WYNDHAMS 0171 369 1736 MAGGIE SMITH SARA KESTELMAN SAMANTHA BOND EDWARD ALBEE'S THREE TALL WOMEN Directed by ANTHONY PAGE Tue-Sat 8pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm MUST END TOMORROW

■ POP 1

Revisit the early life of Bryan Ferry on an epic Roxy Music compilation

■ POP 2

. . . or imbibe some of the yuletide spirit seeping from Luther Vandross and company

■ POP 3

Mindless it may be, but the product of the Eternal label is bringing home the bacon

■ POP 4

Annie Lennox's *Medusa* is Caitlin Moran's choice for 1995's worst record – but which was the best?

Roxy Music, this was your life

RETNA PICTURES

The "futuristic pop-rock songs" of Roxy Music brightened the early 1970s: now you can follow their innovative career on four new CDs

NEW ALBUMS

ROXY MUSIC
The Thrill of it All
(Virgin 8 40970: four discs)

DECORATED with those glossy images of glamorous women that were Roxy Music's visual trademark, *The Thrill of it All* is a 67-track retrospective which does the group's memory proud. Their output was variable and their influence not altogether benign, but when they emerged in 1972 with their futuristic pop-rock songs and arch, space-cockatoo image, Roxy Music played a role in revitalising rock during the grey aftermath of the hippy era.

Disc One incorporates most of their groundbreaking first two albums, *Roxy Music* and *For your Pleasure*, and, although dogged by a desperately unfashionable drum sound, songs such as *Ladytron* and *In Every Dream Home a Heartache* retain their icy charm.

With the departure of sonic maestro Brian Eno in 1973, however, the group lost an element of strategic weirdness, and singer Bryan Ferry started to become a caricature of himself. Disc Two — which draws together most of *Stranded*, *Country Life* and *Siren* — finds him schmoozing away in French on the majestic *A Song for Europe* and gargling in German on the ludicrously overwrought *Bitter-Sweet*.

These comic indulgences are mitigated by gems such as *Prairie Rose* and the timeless *Love is the Drug*, but Disc Three, which rounds up the string of albums they released after re-forming in 1978 (*Manifesto*, *Flesh + Blood* and *Avalon*), is a weary triumph of style over content. The ragbag of B-sides, remixes and non-album singles that makes up Disc Four will be of limited appeal (apart from *Virginia Plain*, *Pyjamarama* and *Jealous Guy*) to all but the most ardent of Roxy completists.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Even Santa Gets the Blues
(Pointblank/Virgin VPB 28)
LUTHER VANDROSS
This is Christmas
(Epic/LV Records 481312)
ALAN JACKSON
Honky Tonk Christmas
(Arista/BMG 07822 18736)

ALTHOUGH these three albums each attempt to give the Christmas theme a different musical spin — blues, soul and country respectively — they all fall back on the tried and tested in the end.

Even Santa Gets the Blues features B.B. King, Charles Brown, Isaac Hayes, Johnny Winter and others bringing various shades of deep-voiced melancholy and/or cheer to the party, but also finds space at the table for a jazz-tinged version of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* by Hadda Brooks, the 79-year-old "Queen of the Boogie".

Luther Vandross turns in an impeccably polished set with slick, uptown arrangements of *My Favourite Things*, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and a rousing gospel choir-assisted finale of *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

For country star Alan Jackson, though, Christmas inevitably means more pain. "I want to thank you for this broken heart that I got/Merry Christmas girl, wherever in the world you are," he sings, mournfully but manfully, on the title track of *Honky Tonk Christmas*.

But among the tales of crying Santas and drunken daddies, Jackson has included a song of reassurance for the kids who live "way down South" where it doesn't snow. Taken at a sprightly canter and featuring the unmistakable voices of Pinky and Perky (seriously), it's called *Santa's Gonna Come in a Pickup Truck*.

RAMPAGE
Priority One
(Rampage/Almo Sounds
ALMOCD005)

HAS there ever been an underground style of music that has taken so long to claw its way to the surface as jungle? Whole eras of musical fashion seem to have come and gone since this rapidly pulsating bass and drum music was first heralded as the wave of the future.

Part of the problem — if that's what it is — is the dance community's fiercely protective attitude towards its hardcore favourites. London-based outfit Rampage were left in no doubt of their place in the scheme of things by a reviewer from one of the specialist magazines who warned them: "We don't want you getting on *The Chart Show* with your Top Ten kids' TV tunes."

Rampage's crime is to have included a version of the catchy theme tune to *The Monkees*, albeit heavily vibed up with those skittery junglist beats, on their debut album, *Priority One*. A snatch of the *Godfather* theme is also pressed into service, briefly, before being steamrollered by the frenetic, pounding beat.

The rest of the album, however, is as uncompromisingly sparse and cut to the rhythmic bone as ever, with little variety or additional instrumentation and strictly no melodies that might interfere with the barrage of drum loops and subliminal bass patterns. Stark, modern and unrelenting, this is a good album of its kind, but lacks the vision to take jungle beyond its current narrow horizons.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	Robson & Jerome	Robson & Jerome (RCA)
2	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
3	Made in Heaven	Queen (Parlophone)
4	Love Songs	Elton John (Rocket)
5	Something to Remember	Madonna (Maverick)
6	HIStory	Michael Jackson (Epic)
7	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
8	The Memory of Trees	Enya (WEA)
9	Life	Simply Red (East West)
10	Anthology 1	Beatles (Apple)

© CIN

Things that made me go 'Mmmm'

I am three weeks behind everyone else in the Records of the Year doodlings; but that was only because I was waiting to see if my Worst Album of the Year, nominated in January, was going to be overtaken for sheer gut-rotting tragedy by Roy "Chubby" Brown's *Take Fat and Party*. It wasn't. So *Medusa* by **Annie Lennox**, wherein everyone's favourite mouse-eared *claaaarssy* lady takes a machete to 12 of our best-loved tunes, still reigns over the very large pile of vinyl laundry waiting to be taken to the cleaners.

Having dispensed with the Worst, then, everything else falls smoothly into place as we head for the bright and bracing highgrounds of the Cool Stuff. **Take That** kicked off the year with *Never Forget*, one of the most frightening examples of clarity and clear-headedness in the middle of a traumatically eventful life, with Gary Barlow howling as if his therapist had ordered him to.

CAITLIN MORAN

Also viewing life with disturbing frankness was **Tricky's** *Maxinquaye*, trying to exhale serenity and beauty with every inhalation of confusion and dirt. Tricky were supporting **P.J. Harvey** at the time their album went straight in at No 2 — one of the best live bills this year, as P.J.'s *To Bring you my Love* deals with the same claustrophobia and longing for redemption and simplicity.

Delicatessen's *Skin Touching Water* and **Tindersticks'** *Tindersticks* were Siamese twins albums — joined at the hip with a love of spoken-word theatrics; rumbling, sensuous bass; keening violins and heavily overloaded guitars. Everyone's forgotten **McAlmont's** *McAlmont*, but for lovelorn sensibilities the first side alone is worth the price of a busride over to your mate's to tape it. Similar heartsick pop was on hand on **Teenage Fanclub's** *Grand Prix*, which escaped being morose thanks to some of the most glorious, soaring harmonies this side of the Beatles.

The Single of the Year, **Pulp's** *Common People*, resurrected the spirit of punk 17 years on, and dressed it in Crimplene and just a *soupçon* of slap, and the triumphant album *Different Class* went straight in at No 1. The **Boo Radleys** reached gold status with *Wake Up!* — only fair, considering songwriter Martin Carr already has a back-catalogue that would turn Brian Wilson green with envy. **Supergrass's** album *I Should Coco* was singlehandedly responsible for the summer heatwave, and the rise of sales of Raleigh Chopper bikes after *Alright* hit No 1 in the singles chart pretty much *demanded* that we all be 11 years old again. **Oasis** waded in shortly afterwards with *What's The Story (Morning Glory?)*, which took us all the way up to the dizzying age of 17.

The **Chemical Brothers'** *Exit Planet Dust* and the elegiac **Dubstar's** *Disgraceful* raised the stakes for the forthcoming New Order LP, while **Method Man's** *All I Need* and the **Jon Spencer Blues Explosion's** *Experimental Remixes* singles sucked up over two hundred separate influences and turned them into pop like we'd never seen before. Meanwhile, **Michelle Gayle's** *Happiness* was as simple a pleasure as coming home and discovering your house is made out of pies.

But since March, no record has measured up to the heart-stopping truth and beauty of **Radiohead's** *The Bends*. Twelve tracks, 48 minutes, and you're a boggly-eyed loon, clutching people's lapels and screaming "Did you hear *that*?" The album by which, in years to come, 1995 will be known.

Euro-cheese makes for a better mousetrap

Paul Sexton meets the golden-eared boss of the chart-busting Eternal label

It happened on *Top of the Pops* last night, for the umpteenth time this year. Britain's venerable chart programme was turned into a giant party by two men looking like bastketball hero Michael Jordan's teammates from the Chicago Bulls.

During 1995, the Illinois-raised Outhere Brothers have made themselves comfortable in the British charts. The new hit, with DJ Molella, *If You Wanna Party*, is their latest call-and-response ditty with an infectiousness akin to the common cold and, according to some music lovers, about as much artistic value.

The Brothers have sold more than a million singles in Britain this year, among them the chart-topping, all-yelling, all-thudding *Don't Stop (Wiggle Wiggle)* and *Boom Boom Boom*. Accessible? Football crowds now chant them, that's how accessible they are.

The Outheres are one of the prime assets of Eternal, a label run out of the giant WEA Records company. Eternal has enjoyed a remarkable 1995 all round, thanks not only to the Chicago twosome, but also Corona, the Italy-based pop-dance group fronted by Brazilian singer Olga de Souza. Their new song, *I Don't Wanna Be A Star*, is set to become their fourth Top Ten single in just over a year, following *Baby Baby*, *Try Me Out* and their first hedonistic anthem, *The Rhythm of the Night*. Total till receipts for the Eternal label: another million-plus units and 50,000 copies of the Corona album.

Add another substantial hit with the club version of the Cranberries' *Zombie* by A.D.A.M. featuring Amy, *and* an Eternal imprint on the current, career-reviving remix of Everything But the Girl's *Missing* (expected to pass sales of half-a-million this week), and one has a candidate for the title of biggest new label of the year — and all of it run by a fellow who used to have a spiv moustache and call himself Enrico Cadillac.

Eternal chief Steve Allen has learnt that the best response to the observations of the taste police about mindless Europop is to point to the balance sheet. And yet Allen is an unlikely champion of such brazen populism. In the 1970s and early 1980s, he was a member of the acclaimed Liverpool "art school pop" outfit Deaf School, and then of esteemed post-punk band the Original Mirrors. He even had success in Europe as a solo pop balladeer.

"I just gave people what they want really, it's very non-elitist," he says. "I'm not going to do anything underground because I've got no interest in feeding that snobbery. In England, everyone calls my stuff 'Euro-cheese', but I don't just do Euro-cheese. The Outhere Brothers are from Chicago."

So he does Chicago-cheese as well. But where Allen differs from those who frown at his common touch is in believing that instant accessibility in music does not signify sellout. "Dance is the great communicator. Everyone's dancing to the same records all over the world. The EC's a bigger market than America, and then there's Japan to think of as well. There's a lot further I can go with this thing."

There is a wounded artistic sensibility here as well. On the piano in his office, Allen demonstrates the classical chords on which much of his stock-in-trade is based. "I put out a brilliant record by Cleo and Marcus, *I've Got the Music in Me*. The guy from the group was in here, I said 'I love the chords in it', and he said: 'Oh yes, it's Chopin'. He's from Turin, he's a brilliant musician."

Controversy over explicit lyrics on the Outhere Brothers album caused it to be withdrawn by WEA, and replaced last Monday by a new "family" version. "It's not my job to tell an artist what the content of his stuff should be," Allen says. "We can't be censors. But we're not here to release nice, friendly music either. If you did that, you wouldn't ever have had Elvis Presley; he was outrageous and controversial. I'm not putting the Outhere Brothers in his bracket, but I think if you sign it, you've got to go with it.

"There were certain things on that album that I wouldn't want my kid listening to, although at six he's probably a bit too young to be able to pick up the gist. But [the Bothers] aren't making records for kids, they're making club records for grown-ups."

● *The singles* If You Wanna Party, *by Molella featuring the Outhere Brothers and* I Don't Wanna be a Star *by Corona, as well as* Party Album, *by the Outhere Brothers, are available on Eternal/WEA*

MMC INVITES EVIDENCE ON LONDON AIRPORT CHARGES

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is to investigate the maximum airport charges that should be allowed over the five year period starting on 1 April 1997 at the three London airports owned by BAA plc, namely Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. The MMC also has to consider whether any of these airports has acted against the public interest in any of its airport-related activities since the last investigation in 1990.

The MMC would like to hear from interested parties, in writing, by 12 January 1996, if possible. Anyone wishing to submit evidence, or to receive a copy of the full terms of reference, should write to: The Reference Secretary (Airports), Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT, quoting ref TMS5.

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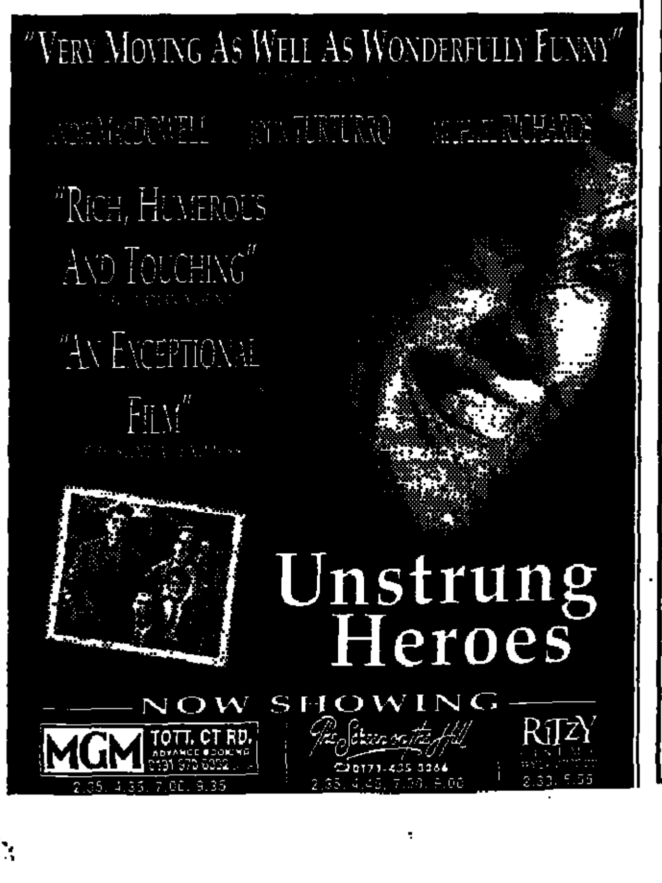

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Further details about the post are available from Mr J Elder, The Director of Administration & Resources, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Tel: (01280) 820280. Fax No. (01280) 820223. The closing date for applications is 31 January 1996.

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Informal Enquiries should be made to Scott Allan, Vice Principal (tel 0131 317 3204) from whom further particulars are available. Closing date for applications is 26 January 1996.

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EDUCATION

Head teachers' thoughts on classroom danger — and a view of the brave man who died for his pupils

The American nightmare: in the United States, security men on campus are now commonplace — but British schools must beware of turning themselves into prisons, says John Dunford

Schools on the front line

The problems of violence and crime inside the school gates are only a symptom of the wider ills of society, says **John Dunford**

"Why is it," asked a head teacher recently, "that whenever a dog comes on to my school playing field, it is always a rottweiler?" This was said by the head of a successful 600-pupil comprehensive school in a very deprived urban area of Teesside, speaking in a debate at the summer council meeting of the Secondary Heads Association, of which Philip Lawrence was a distinguished member until his death last week outside his school in Maida Vale.

We all have dogs on our playing fields and we all have social problems, to a greater or lesser extent, in our schools. But the point which the head was making was that there are schools in which all the problems are hugely magnified by the social and physical situation.

In the past two years, the Secondary Heads Association has become increasingly aware of the size of the problems facing schools in the most difficult areas of the country, not only in large cities such as London and Manchester, but in smaller towns and cities such as Middlesbrough, Grimsby, Derby and Reading. They are in the outer estates of these towns, as well as in inner cities. In these schools, rottweilers are not the only intruders to worry head teachers and their staff — motorbikes, joyriders in stolen cars, angry parents and, worst of all, drug dealers have all been reported on school sites many times. Baseball bats and knives are frequently carried by the intruders.

In these circumstances, head teachers and their colleagues are called upon to show physical courage in dealing with many of the situations which arise. Few interview panels include this in their criteria for appointments to headship, yet that is the quality which Mr Lawrence showed last week.

In the past, people have taken for granted that teachers will break up fights and rescue pupils in distress — perhaps the dangers will now be more readily recognised.

These problems are not created by the schools. Indeed, schools are almost always relative havens of calm in the lives of young people. This is particularly so when the pupils live in deprived urban areas, where schools have replaced the police and social services as the first port of call for families with major problems. Schools work closely with these agencies, but the speed of response of the police and social services is limited by the other calls on their time. If Mr Lawrence had dialled 999 instead of dealing with the situation himself, the attack on the 15-year-old pupil outside St George's School would certainly have ended by the time the police arrived.

We have to distinguish between situations which occur on school premises and those which happen outside. The shooting of a girl pupil at Hall Garth School, Middlesbrough, in 1994 highlighted the vulnerability of school premises, with their multiple entrances and lack of security. After this tragedy, many schools — including St George's — introduced extra security measures, including visitor passes, exterior fencing and cameras. With a thorough security audit and adequate resources, schools can combat almost all intruders, although no school wants to resemble a prison.

The killing of Mr Lawrence was not a matter of school security, but a symptom of a much wider problem, in which violence has encouraged violence, and where young people feel the need to carry weapons in order to demonstrate their masculinity or because they want to protect themselves from others whom they know to be carrying them. If such weapons are brought into school, the situation is dealt with according to the rules and sanctions of the school. Incidents which happen outside school, however, are more difficult because schools cannot be divorced from the problems which are endemic in their local communities and which, all too often, spill over into the school and its immediate neighbourhood.

We must hope that Mr Lawrence's death draws the public's attention to the problems highlighted by the head teachers of schools in deprived communities. Then it will be seen that the problems are not confined to the schools, but are symptomatic of the worst situations which are developing in our society.

They are not someone else's problems, but will affect all of us if they remain unsolved. Solutions will be effective only if they take this into account.

● *The author is president of the Secondary Heads Association and head of Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, Durham City.*

'One of the most gifted teachers of his time'

Philip Lawrence: iconoclastic

Alexander Davidson recalls inspirational English lessons given by Philip Lawrence

Philip Lawrence, the murdered London headmaster, will be badly missed in the state sector. However, no less forgotten will be his earlier outstanding teaching in the private sector.

In the early 1970s, I was lucky enough to have Mr Lawrence as my English teacher at St Benedict's, Ealing, an independent boys school. In his mid-twenties at the time, he was surely one of the most gifted teachers of his generation. He was an iconoclast who made traditional teaching methods look outmoded.

There was a quality of the artist about the man. His gait was sprightly, his smile quick. He dressed flamboyantly and had angular handwriting which spiralled into what graphologists call the spiritual zone.

In our class, Mr Lawrence introduced literature to 14-year-old boys as if he had just discovered it. He read dramatically from D.H. Lawrence and Dylan Thomas, slipping into a high-pitched voice to represent female characters. He paced the room and made faces to play every part.

By focusing repeatedly on the same extracts of literature and exploring their meaning passionately with his pupils, Mr Lawrence cultivated in us an exacting literary palette. He related literature to our limited experience and so made it meaningful.

But teaching creative writing was Mr Lawrence's forte. He strove to cultivate excellence as well as self-expression. The standards were always the great writers but he offered further stimuli. In one poignant lesson, he read out a story in which flowers featured as a metaphor for love in its complexity. He then waved in the air a few fresh daffodils he had brought in. Suddenly he grimaced and crushed the flowers in his hand. He laughed and said: "Write about what *that* puts into your head."

Clichés were not tolerated. In one lesson, he asked pupils for examples of similes and wrote them on the board. He then crossed through the lot in a flash. "Let's start again and make the similes original," he announced. He also had a great teacher's knack of focusing on a tiny matter until it was thoroughly understood. He once spent a whole lesson explaining what irony meant and how it differed from sarcasm.

In another innovation he once combined our English group with another for a "mixed ability" class. It was run by Mr Lawrence and his future wife Frances.

So focused was his engagement with his pupils that he had no problem with troublemakers. Arguments were usually part of the educational experience. His lessons were, like life, unpredictable. This brought out reactions in his pupils which startled even themselves.

As an experimental teacher, he attracted his share of criticism. For instance, some parents were disappointed that he did not make pupils read Shakespeare in great chunks or learn poems by heart. But not everybody understood that he was doing something more valuable. He taught his pupils not just a love of literature, but also how to read it critically and how to think.

Doubtless his talents cried out for wider expression, and it is a truism that teachers of his quality are needed in the state sector where he eventually made his career. But great teachers are no less valuable in private schools. The better independent schools like Ampleforth College where he was educated, or St Benedict's where he taught, employ many good teachers.

Such teachers can afford to be more intellectual and self-indulgent than most of their state school counterparts. They can concentrate on educating and are unhampered by, for instance, violence.

If state education is to keep or attract teachers of Philip Lawrence's calibre, it must provide a good, safe working environment. In the aftermath of his murder, it now has farther to go than ever.

Spectre of '68 haunts France

Mary Follain reports from Paris on the growing militancy of university students

It is two and a half months since students at Rouen University began three weeks of strikes, demos and sit-ins, finally forcing François Bayrou, the Education Minister, to give them an extra Fr9 million and 200 teachers — nearly all that they were demanding.

Since then universities all over France have followed suit, each negotiating separately for more money and more teachers. During the past three weeks the universities' demands have become overshadowed by the national protest over health and welfare reform and, for the first time since 1968, striking students and public service workers are together in the streets. It is a nightmare scenario for any government.

So far, students have refused M Bayrou's hurriedly produced emergency plan offering an extra Fr369 million and 4,000 extra teaching and non-teaching staff, which they say is grossly inadequate.

There are real problems in French universitites and M Bayrou is in a tight corner. During his May election campaign, President Chirac rashly promised students more generous grants. M Bayrou soon disappointed them by postponing any decision until next June.

Christian Forestier, the Director of Higher Education, acknowledges that in the present climate of cuts in public spending this can only mean a redistribution of the budget now available for student support. The present system, with its emphasis on tax allowances to parents and too few direct grants, benefits better-off families rather than poor students themselves.

M Chirac also promised to improve student conditions. "Wider access to a university education," he acknowledged, "has been accompanied by profound inequalities for students both in their conditions of study and their chances of success."

Masks of protest: workers like these are being supported by students

Forty per cent of French school-leavers now go into higher education. Intake began soaring as far back as 1980 and over the past five years each university has had to absorb an average 50 per cent increase.

The French Government has no intention of limiting student numbers, even though resources have not kept pace over the years and teaching posts have been cut back. France spends only £4,000 per student, compared with the UK's £10,000.

Lionel Jospin, the former Education Minister, launched a five-year building programme in 1990 but, as was known from the start, it has only staved off a crisis. Half-a-dozen splendid new universities have been built and many others partly refurbished, but in October a report showed that one in every ten of the old ones is unsafe.

Conditions are worst in the first two years of a degree course, when 40 per cent of students drop out. Outlining his Government's policy last summer, Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said they were "in a state of suffocation" and compared them to a shipwreck in which only the best swimmers survive.

Much of the students' misery stems from their refusal to accept selection. In 1986, when M Chirac was Prime Minister, Alain Devaquet, his Higher Education Minister, tried to introduce it. He also wanted to give the too-tightly controlled universities a little of the autonomy they desperately need. But students, fearing this would only worsen existing inequalities, brought down the Government.

The students appear to be their own worst enemies. They rush to demonstrate at even a hint of change, often blocking vital reform. M Bayrou's present caution is based on bitter experience. Only last January, the mere publication of a report calling for the creation of regional colleges to be closely linked to industry and local authorities added fuel to student demonstrations. M Bayrou hurriedly disowned it.

But M Chirac said in May that the first two years of degree courses must co-operate with industry and local authorities.

Students are surely not wrong to put the emphasis squarely on resources and teaching posts. It is hard to see how their conditions of study can improve as long as the French continue to run their universities on what is, in comparison with the UK, a shoestring.

Why do socks always end up alone?

Jessica Gorst-Williams on the problem of lost property

End of term looms, and the main thing on many parents' minds is not their child's report, but that missing sock or the bottom half of a tracksuit that he has been doing without for weeks.

Lost property is a perennial bugbear for schools. For parents, kitting out children is expensive and time-consuming enough without finding that the blazers, gumshields, football boots and flutes a pupil was seen off with on the first bright morning of the academic year are now dallying in a smelly heap in an out-of-the-way corner of school.

The problem is biggest in large day schools where the comings and goings make it difficult to be sure whether something has been lost or stolen.

It is least worrying in boarding schools, which often act on the premise that belongings are not missing, they are just circulating. Mark Pyper, the Headmaster of Gordonstoun, says: "We work on the principle that everyone comes with full kit at the beginning of term. Then things tend to get borrowed and shuffled around. So long as each child has the right quota of items, even if they are not the precise ones they started with, that is no great problem. In a boarding school things usually turn up."

At Benenden, the girls' boarding school, stray marked belongings go into a series of boxes, one for each house, and are then repatriated to house rooms once a day. Any anonymous item must be collected by the owner in person.

At Sevenoaks School, in Kent, prefects used to supervise a mountain of smelly, sometimes damp belongings, trying to help younger pupils to find their erstwhile gear. Parents put off by "lost property's" reputation would shrug off their losses and buy new.

Then, at the end of last summer term, two people spent five days detailing every named article on a computer database and depositing them into alphabetically listed plastic garden bins.

"Now the new system is just about off the starting blocks," says Stephen Stares, the School Marshal. "A dozen or so articles arrive each morning and are quickly processed. Information is sent around the houses and the property in general is collected."

This presupposes clothes are marked. Unmarked, unclaimed belongings not collected by half term or the end of term go to the school's parents' association shop if they are on the school clothing list. If not, in common with many other schools, they go to a local charity shop. Any parents prepared to brave their child's embarrassment and use their dowsing instincts around a school are likely to double the odds of finding missing gear.

Careful marking of clothes with the child's name more than quadruples the chances of recovery. People have been sewing on Cash's nametapes since the 1870s. The tapes have a 25-year guarantee and these days are so universal they even come in Chinese, Japanese and Russian. Some thrifty parents with more than one child have different initials on either side of the surname.

Schools seldom accept liability for losses, and household contents policies will not pay out for possessions missing at school unless they feature in the all-risks section. Even then, says Roger Prideaux, of Royal Insurance: "Anyone who keeps on claiming may well find the insurer gets fed up and asks for a higher premium on all the belongings of the household, or increases the excess. You have to ask if this is worthwhile just for the belongings of one absent-minded child."

Some schools have bulk insurance to which parents can contribute. Otherwise Holmwoods, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, offers individual policies.

'Everyone comes with full kit — then it gets shuffled'

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Risk of harm must be based on facts

In re H (Minors) (Child abuse: Threshold conditions)

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead.

[Speeches December 14]

In order to establish that a child was likely to suffer significant harm in the future within the meaning of section 31 of the Children Act 1989 so as to enable the court to make a care or supervision order, there had to be a real possibility of risk, based on actual facts rather than mere suspicions.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing by majority (Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Lloyd of Berwick dissenting) an appeal brought by the local authority against the dismissal by the Court of Appeal ([1995] 1 FLR 643) by a majority (Lord Justice Kennedy dissenting) of the local authority's appeal from the decision of Judge Davidson, QC, in Nottingham County Court on November 23, 1994.

Mr James Munby, QC, for the local authority; Mr Allan Levy, QC and Miss Judith Claxton for the mother and father; Miss Lindsey Kushner, QC, for the guardian ad litem.

LORD NICHOLLS said that the subject of the appeal was the care of children. Section 31 of the 1989 Act empowered the court to make an order placing a child in the care of a local authority or putting a child under the supervision of a local authority or probation officer.

In order to make an order, the court had to be satisfied of the existence or likelihood of harm attributable either to the care the child was receiving or likely to receive or to the child being beyond parental control.

The mother had four children, all girls. D1 and D2 were children of her marriage to Mr H in 1979. Mr H and the mother separated and in 1984 she commenced living with Mr R and they had two children: D3 and D4.

In September 1993, when she was 15, D1 made a statement to the police. She said she had been sexually abused by Mr R ever since she was seven or eight years old. She was then accommodated with foster parents and Mr R was charged with rape.

In February 1994 the local authority applied for care orders in respect of the three younger girls. Interim care orders were made, followed by interim supervision orders.

Mr R was acquitted of rape but despite that the local authority proceeded with the applications for care orders in respect of D2, D3 and D4, based on the alleged sexual abuse of D1 by Mr R.

Relying on the different standard of proof in criminal and civil matters, the local authority asked the judge to find that Mr R had sexually abused D1, or at least that there was a substantial risk he had done so, thereby satisfying the section 31(2) conditions for the making of a care order in respect of the three younger girls.

The judge dismissed the applications finding, inter alia, that he was more than a little suspicious that Mr R had abused D1 but he was not sure to the requisite high standard of proof that D1's allegations were true. The Court of Appeal dismissed the local authority's appeal.

Mr Levy submitted that "likely" within the meaning of section 31 meant "probable" and that the decision of the Court of Appeal to the contrary in *Newham London Borough Council v Attorney-General* ([1993] 1 FLR 281) was wrong. His Lordship could not accept that contention.

In section 31(2) Parliament had stated the prerequisites which had to exist before the court had power to make a care order. Those prerequisites marked the boundary line between the interests of the parents in caring for their own child and the interests of the child in which there could be circumstances where there might be a need for his care to be entrusted to others.

In that context Parliament could not have been using "likely" in the sense of more likely than not. In his Lordship's view, in section 31(2)(a) "likely" was being used in the sense of a real possibility, one which could not sensibly be ignored having regard to the nature and gravity of the feared harm in the particular case.

The legal burden of establishing the existence of the criteria in section 31(2) existed rested on the applicant for a care order. The general principle was that he who asserted had to prove. Generally, although there were exceptions, a plaintiff or applicant had to establish the existence of all the preconditions and other facts entitling him to the order he sought. There was nothing in the language or context of section 31(2) to suggest that the normal principle should not apply to the threshold conditions.

Where the matters in issue were facts, the standard of proof required in non-criminal proceedings was the preponderance of probability, usually referred to as the balance of probability. There were exceptions but his Lordship could see no reason for thinking that family proceedings were, or should be an exception.

His Lordship therefore agreed with recent decisions of the Court of Appeal in several cases involving the care of children, to the effect that the standard of proof was the ordinary civil standard of balance of probabilities: see *H v H (Minor) (Child abuse: Evidence)* ([1990] Fam 86), *In re M (a Minor) (Appeal) (No 2)* ([1994] 1 FLR 59) and *In re W (Minors) (Sexual abuse: Standard of proof)* ([1994] 1 FLR 419).

The Court of Appeal were of the same view in the present case. It followed that the contrary observations in *In re G (a Minor) (Child abuse: Standard of proof)* ([1987] 1 WLR 1461) and *In re W (Minors) (Sexual abuse: Standard of proof)* ([1994] 1 FLR 419) were not an accurate statement of the law.

There was no difficulty in applying that standard to the threshold conditions. The first limb of section 31(2)(a) predicated an existing state of affairs to be decided by the court on the basis of facts admitted or proved on the balance of probability. The same approach applied to the second limb of section 31(2)(a). The court had to decide on how highly it evaluated the risk of significant harm befalling the child.

The problem was presented in stark form by the facts of the present case. The local authority did not suggest that the first limb of section 31(2)(a) was satisfied in respect of D2, D3 and D4. Its case for the making of a care order was based exclusively on the second limb based on the allegation that over many years D1 was subject to repeated sexual abuse.

The three younger girls were not at risk unless D1 had been abused by Mr R in the past. If she was not abused, there was no reason for thinking the others might be.

To decide that the others were at risk because there was a possibility that D1 was abused would be to base the decision, not on fact, but on the suspicion that D1 might have been abused. That would be to lower the threshold prescribed by Parliament.

Parliament decided that the threshold for a care order should be that the child was suffering significant harm, or that there was a real possibility that he would do so. In the latter regard the threshold was comparatively low. Therein lay the protection for children.

But Parliament also decided that proof of the relevant facts was needed if that threshold was to be surmounted which provided protection for parents. They were not to be at risk of having their child taken from them and removed into the care of the local authority on the basis only of suspicions. Accordingly, the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Goff and Lord Mustill agreed.

LORD BROWNE-WILKINSON, dissenting, said that where he differed from Lord Nicholls was in thinking that the facts relevant to an assessment of risk were not the same as the facts relevant to a decision that harm was in fact being suffered.

In order to be satisfied that there was a risk of harm his Lordship would take into account the combined effect of a number of factors. In the present case, the major issue was whether D1 had been sexually abused (the macro fact).

In the course of the hearing a number of other facts (the micro facts) were established to the judge's satisfactions by the evidence. The conclusion that there was a real possibility that the evidence of D1 was true was based on evidence and the micro facts that the judge had found. It was not a mere suspicion as to the risk that Mr R was an abuser: it was a finding of risk based on facts.

If legal proof of actual abuse was a prerequisite to a finding that a child was at risk of abuse, the court would be powerless to intervene to protect children in relation to whom there were the gravest suspicions of actual abuse but the necessary evidence legally to prove such abuse was lacking.

LORD LLOYD, dissenting, said that "likely" in section 31(2)(a) meant that there was a serious risk or real possibility that the child would suffer significant harm.

Where it was claimed that the child had suffered or was suffering significant harm the standard of proof was the simple balance of probabilities, no matter how serious the underlying allegation. Where it was claimed that the child was likely to suffer significant harm, the simple one-stage approach sufficed.

The question was whether, on all the evidence, the court considered that there was a real possibility of the child's suffering significant harm in the future. If so, the threshold criterion was satisfied.

The court did not have to be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the child had in fact suffered significant harm in the past, whether by sexual abuse or otherwise, even where the allegation of abuse was the foundation of the local authority's case for a care order.

His Lordship agreed with every word of the dissenting judgment of Lord Justice Kennedy's judgment in the Court of Appeal which he had read with admiration and he would allow the appeal and would, but for the decision of the majority, have remitted the case to the judge for a further hearing if there was continuing cause for concern.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr C. P. McKay, Nottingham; Freeth Cartwright Hunt Dickens, Nottingham; Fletchers, Nottingham; German & Soar, Nottingham.

Council need not make direct provision

Regina v Wandsworth London Borough Council, Ex parte Beckwith

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches December 14]

The arrangements made by a local authority under sections 21 and 26 of the National Health Service Act 1948, as amended, for providing residential accommodation for persons in need of care and attention could consist wholly of arrangements with voluntary organisations or other persons; there was no obligation on local authorities to make any direct provision themselves.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Mr William Beckwith from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Swinton Thomas) (*The Times* June 29) which had allowed appeals by Wandsworth London Borough Council from Mr Justice Popplewell (*The Times* May 4) and Mr Justice Potts (*The Times* June 5). On applications by Mr Beckwith for judicial review, Mr Justice Popplewell had quashed a decision of the council made on December 7, 1994 and Mr Justice Potts had declared two later decisions of the council to the same effect to be unlawful.

Section 21 of the 1948 Act, as amended by sections 42(1) and 66 of and Schedule 9, paragraph 5(1) to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, provides: "(1) . . . a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state, and to such extent as he may direct shall, make arrangements for providing — (a) residential accommodation for persons . . . who by reason of age, illness, disability, or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them . . ."

Section 26, as substituted by section 1(1) of the Community Care (Residential Accommodation) Act 1992, provides: "(1) . . . arrangements under section 21 . . . may include arrangements made with a voluntary organisation or with any other person . . ."

By Local Authority Circular LAC(93)10 (Department of Health) the secretary of state directed local authorities to make arrangements under section 21(1)(a) in relation to persons ordinarily resident in their areas and other persons in urgent need.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Alan Maclean for Mr Beckwith; Mr Alan Wilkie, QC and Mr Sean Jones for the council.

LORD HOFFMANN said that Mr Beckwith was 75. He lived in George Potter House in Battersea High Street. That was one of four homes for the elderly in the London Borough of Wandsworth.

Until recently, the council had managed the homes itself, but on December 7, 1994 it had decided to close George Potter House and transfer the other three homes into private ownership.

Mr Beckwith had objected and applied for judicial review on the ground that the council was under a legal duty to maintain some accommodation for the elderly in premises under its own management. The Court of Appeal, disagreeing with the judges, had held that the council was entitled to discharge its statutory duty entirely by means of arrangements with third parties.

Mr Gordon argued that "may include" in section 26(1) of the 1948 Act, as substituted, meant that private sector arrangements might form part of a larger whole. It did not mean "may wholly consist of". If that had been intended, the Act would have used the expression "may consist of or include", as it did in section 30 and other places.

That argument did not allow for the many subtly different techniques open to the draftsman.

The draftsman was not saying that homes in the private sector might be included in the collective of homes that the council had to provide. He was saying that the concept of "arrangements" that had been used to define the council's duty in section 21 was to include arrangements with the private sector.

That produced an altogether different result: it extended the meaning of the concept by which the council's duty was defined. Any arrangements that fell within the extended definition would satisfy the council's duty.

It was true that paragraph 4 of Circular LAC(93)10 said: "It is the view of the department that the amendments introduced into the Act of 1948 by section 1 of the [1992 Act] will require authorities to make some provision for residential care . . ."

The opinion of the department was entitled to respect, particularly since his Lordship assumed that the 1992 Act had been drafted on its instructions, but in his view that statement was simply wrong.

Lord Goff, Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey and Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed.

Solicitors: Miss Gabrielle O'Connor, Wandsworth; Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

Seller can forfeit deposit despite seeking higher price

Vaswani* v *Italian Motors (Sales and Services) Ltd

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Woolf, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann

[Judgment December 12]

Although sellers had demanded from a buyer in payment of the balance of the purchase price a sum exceeding that which was due under the contract, the sellers had not thereby repudiated the contract and they were entitled to forfeit the buyer's deposit since he had made no further payment.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council so held when dismissing an appeal by the appellant buyer, Haneet Chandru Vaswani, from the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong which had allowed an appeal by the respondent sellers, Italian Motors (Sales and Services) Ltd, from Deputy Judge Gould in the High Court of Hong Kong, who had ordered the respondents to return to the appellant his deposit of £44,875.

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Nigel Kat, of the English and Hong Kong Bars, for the appellant; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr John Scott, of the English and Hong Kong Bars, for the respondents.

LORD WOOLF said that the appeal involved a dispute as to the return of a deposit paid on an abortive sale of a car. The deposit was paid by the appellant to the respondents, who were the sole distributors in Hong Kong of Ferrari cars, for the purchase of a Ferrari Testarossa. The contract was made in writing on May 1, 1989.

The price was £179,500, which was the price shown in the respondents' price list for that type of car. The car had to be specially ordered and the deposit was 25 per cent of the purchase price.

By the beginning of June 1990 the car was ready for delivery. The respondents requested payment of the balance of the purchase price.

They calculated that as £168,141.66. That was based on an increased sale price of £218,800 which the respondents claimed was payable and which was their list price at that date.

In July they gave notice that unless completion took place on July 10, they would treat the contract as at end and forfeit the deposit. No further payment was made and the appellant was informed that the deposit was forfeited.

He subsequently challenged the right of the respondents to receive the sum which they had demanded. He commenced proceedings in Hong Kong for the return of his deposit. The judge decided the issue of repudiation in the appellant's favour and ordered the return of the deposit. The Court of Appeal allowed the respondents' appeal.

The first issue was whether the respondents were entitled to insist on payment of the increased price for the car. That turned on the proper construction of the contract.

After considering the terms of the contract his Lordship concluded:

The respondents were not entitled to demand an increase based on their list price at the date of delivery whatever the circumstances.

In general they were limited to increasing the price so that it reflected the increase in costs to which they had themselves been subjected by circumstances specified in the contract.

The second issue was whether the respondents repudiated the contract. There were features of the case which made that issue not straightforward.

There was the fact that the respondents were acting bona fide in seeking the higher price. The other feature was that even if the respondents had demanded the correct balance of the purchase price that would not have been paid by the appellant.

If the respondents had demanded the payment of the correct sum they would have had the right to forfeit the deposit and resell the car. The respondents having demanded a sum in excess of that due their primary argument was based on the proposition that it did not amount to a repudiation of a contract to assert a genuinely held but erroneous view as to the effect of the contract.

That that could be the position was good sense and already subject to considerable judicial support. While here the request for the payment of an excessive price would not in itself amount to a repudiation, if the conduct relied went beyond the assertion of a genuinely held view of the effect of the contract the conduct could amount to a repudiation.

That was the position if the conduct was inconsistent with the continuance of the contract. Then the bona fide motives of the party responsible did not prevent the conduct being repudiatory. Nor was conduct, if it was repudiatory, excused because it occurred in consequence of legal advice, as might be the case with the respondents' actions.

His Lordship referred to *Woodar Investment Development Ltd v Wimpey Construction UK Ltd* ([1980] 1 WLR 277) and *Federal Commerce and Navigation Co Ltd v Molena Alpha Inc* ([1979] AC 757) and continued that while the respondents indicated to the appellant that he should pay a sum which was excessive or the deposit would be forfeited they never went so far as to indicate to him that it would be purposeless to pay the lesser sum.

There was nothing to prevent the appellant paying the sum he calculated was due. Until he at least tendered the sum he considered was due the respondents were not required to deliver the vehicle. However, the appellant never called for delivery.

The respondents did not threaten a breach of the contract with serious consequences and there was no conduct by them which was totally inconsistent with the continuance of the contract until after the appellant had made it clear that he was not going to make any further payment.

That being the situation the respondents did not repudiate the contract.

Their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Simmons & Simmons; Edwin Coe.

No obligation to consult before deciding to close failing school

Regina v Secretary of State for Education and Employment and Another, Ex parte Morris and Others

Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment December 12]

There was no obligation on an education association, which was appointed under Part V of the Education Act 1993 to take over a school deemed to be failing to give an acceptable standard of education, to consult prior to its report recommending closure. Similarly there was no obligation on the secretary of state to consult before closing such a school.

Mr Justice Popplewell so stated in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing an application for judicial review by Nathan Morris, by his mother and next friend Jacqueline Morris, Stuart Wallace, by his mother and next friend Ann Wallace, Josephine Lukeman and Barbara Shillabeer, of a report of the North East London Education Association on October 26, 1995 and its recommendation that Hackney Downs School be closed; and a decision of the Secretary of State for Education and Employment of November 14, 1995 to discontinue the education association and consequently to close the school as from December 31, 1995.

Mr Philip Engelman for the applicants; Mr Richard McManus for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that Mr McManus had submitted that there was no suggestion that before an education association, which had been appointed to conduct a school, prepared its report that it should consult anyone.

When one looked at the power of the secretary of state in respect of closing a school after receiving a report by an education association, the absence of a statutory obligation was very marked.

It was clear by amendment to section 12 of the Education Act 1980 and following a line of authorities that there was an obligation generally to consult. It must have been well known to Parliament there was, if not expressly, an implicit obligation on the secretary of state before closing to consult.

However, that absence in the present circumstances was plain to be seen and the reasoning behind it was that the present arrangement was a special measure: a case where a school was failing its pupils, had not improved and there was great urgency that all pupils received the best education. Therefore, it was quite inappropriate to have a consultation procedure because there was a special need to close the school.

Elsewhere in the 1993 Act there was expression of the necessity to consult: see sections 104 and 184 to 185. The absence of any reference in the present circumstances to an obligation to consult therefore led to the obvious conclusion that no obligation existed.

In his Lordship's judgment, the introduction of an education association in respect of special measures and closure of a school was different from the procedures adopted in the normal event.

There was, therefore, no obligation on either the education association or the secretary of state to consult when closing a school which was failing to give an acceptable standard of education.

Solicitors: Teacher Stern Selby and Bindman & Partners; Treasury Solicitor.

Insurance form does not require promises

Hussain* v *Brown

Before Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Saville

[Judgment June 28]

There was no special principle of insurance law requiring answers in proposal forms to be read as importing promises as to the future.

The Court of Appeal so held on dismissing an appeal by the defendant underwriter, Reginald Ewart Brown, against the refusal of Judge Kershaw, QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on June 22, 1994, to dismiss a claim by the plaintiff insured, Azmat Hussain, under a Lloyd's fire policy.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC and Mr Richard Millett for the underwriter; Mr Stephen Stewart for the insured.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that the proposal form completed by the insured had contained the following question: "Are the premises fitted with any system of intruder alarm? If 'yes', give name of installing company (Please provide a copy alarm specification if applicable)". The insured answered that question "Yes" and "See specification".

The underwriters submitted that that answer amounted to a continuing warranty that the premises were fitted with an intruder alarm, that the alarm was operational and/or would be habitually set by the insured when the premises were unattended.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was no special principle of insurance law requiring answers in proposal forms to be read, prima facie or otherwise, as importing promises as to the future.

If and to the extent that *Hales v Reliance Fire and Accident Insurance Co Ltd* ([1960] 2 Lloyd's Rep 391) suggested that there was any special principle applicable to proposals for insurance in general, or fire insurance in particular, his Lordship considered it to be wrong.

The question posed for the potential insured was in the present tense. It did not seek on its face any information as to the practice of the proposer with regard to the alarm, for example, whether it was set when the premises were left unoccupied.

His Lordship could see nothing in the words of the simple question posed, or to be gleaned from the context, which began to suggest that what an affirmative answer entailed was an undertaking as to the future.

A continuing warranty was a draconian term. The breach of such a warranty produced an automatic cancellation of the cover and the fact that a loss might have had no connection at all with that breach was simply irrelevant. If underwriters wanted such protection, then it was up to them to stipulate for it in clear terms.

Lord Justice Rose delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Leggatt agreed.

Solicitors: Squire & Co; Betesh Partnership, Manchester.

Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from close of business on 14th December 1995 the following ***Business Cheque and Deposit*** *rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:*

	*Rate per Annum** GROSS %	GROSS C.A.R.%
Business Interest Cheque Account		
Instant Access Cheque Account		
£250,000+	4·00	4·06
£100,000-249,999	3.75	3.80
£50,000-99,999	3·25	3·29
£10,000-49,999	3.00	3.03
£2,000-9,999	2·25	2·27
£1-1,999	1·75	1·76
Schools Banking Account		
	4·75	4·84
Capital Reserve Account*		
£250,000+	5.50	5.61
£100,000-249,999	5·50	5·61
£50,000-99,999	5.00	5.09
£10,000-49,999	4.75	4.84
£2,000-9,999	3·00	3·03
£1-1,999	1·75	1·76
Practice Call Account†		
£100,000+	5.50	5.61
£50,000-99,999	5·25	5·35
£10,000-49,999	5·00	5·09
£2,000-9,999	3·00	3·03
£1-1,999	1·75	1·76

TSB We want you to say YES

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly.
*Before deduction of Basic Rate income tax. **7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. †Minimum balance £2,000.
TSB Bank plc, Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

New Life for Edmonton - The Edmonton Partnership Initiative

The London Borough of Enfield in partnership with local residents and traders aims to revitalise the heart of Edmonton by launching a design competition to bring about a major regeneration of the area.

The project known as the Edmonton Partnership Initiative covers over 100 acres of land and includes 1,300 homes, the largest municipally owned shopping centre in the Country, 1,000 car parking spaces and a leisure centre.

The Council is keen to create a partnership with leading private sector developers to develop innovative proposals for the area combined with a viable funding package to support one of North London's most established communities.

The first stage of the competition is being launched now. If you are interested in finding out more about the EPI and wish to be considered for the competition, please write for an information pack to the following address: The Project Manager, The Edmonton Partnership Initiative, 29 Market Sq, Edmonton Green, Edmonton, London N9 OTZ.

The closing date for receiving expressions of interest is Friday, January 19th 1996.

ENFIELD WORKING FOR PEOPLE

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF IBIS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above-named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 11th January 1996, being the date for that purpose fixed by the undersigned, David J Illingworth of KPMG, St James's Square, Manchester M2 6DS, United Kingdom, the Joint Liquidator of the said Company, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors, if any, to the undersigned, and, if so required by notice in writing from the undersigned, are personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 12th day of December 1995
Signed: D J Illingworth for and on behalf of the Joint Liquidators

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4 106(1)
HO HO RESTAURANT LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Franses of Ian Franses Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 12th December 1995.
All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Franses at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP
I Franses - Liquidator

DURABLE DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 76 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7LB on 6th January 1996, at 10 a.m in accordance with rule 3.11(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, a Creditor is entitled to vote only if details of the debt claimed are submitted to the receivers in writing no later than 12 noon on the business day prior to the Meeting, and where the Creditor cannot attend in person, a form of proxy which the Creditor intends to be used on his behalf is lodged with the receivers before the Meeting. Creditors whose claims are fully secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the Meeting. Unsecured Creditors may request a free copy of the Administrative Receivers' report to be sent to them. Claims, proxies or requests should be sent to the Administrative Receivers at Berley, 76 New Cavendish Street, London, W1M 7LB DATED THIS 8.12.1995
M Levy
J H Berman
Joint Administrative Receivers

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities, 1. Lovelace's Charity 2. Lovelace Educational Foundation - Registered Numbers 237724, 313101
Scheme for the regulation of the Charities
Reference: AR-443-CD(T)

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy can be seen for the next month at Anstey Sargent & Probert, 4, 5 & 6 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1RF, or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the reference above

VEDILUX LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT on Wednesday, 20 December 1995 at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT between 10.00am and 4.00 pm on the two business days immediately before the day fixed for the Meeting.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge (unless attending in a personal capacity) a proxy at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT no later than 12 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the Meeting. Creditors intending to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account with their proxies. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a Creditor will not be entitled to vote unless a claim has been lodged and admitted for voting purposes. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
Dated this 11th day of December 1995
P R SYKES, Joint Liquidator

Quebec Central Railway Company
Capital Stock

In preparation for the payment of the half-yearly dividend due January 15 1996 on the above stock, the transfer books will be closed at 3.30 p.m on December 18 1995 and will be re-opened on December 27 1995.
D R Keeal, Assistant Secretary
62-68 Trafalgar Square,
London WC2N 5DY.
December 13 1995

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MERCANTILE HOUSE HOLDINGS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at Kings House, 36/37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH on the 26th day of January 1996 at 10.15am for the purposes, if thought fit, of nominating a Liquidator and of appointing a Liquidation Committee. Any proxy to be used at the meeting must be lodged at Kings House, 36/37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH no later than 12 noon on the business day before the meeting. A statement of claim must also be lodged.
NOTICE is also given that, for the purpose of voting, secured creditors must (unless they surrender their security) lodge a statement giving particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and the value of which they estimate it.
A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at Kings House, 36/37 King Street, London EC2V 8BH between the hours of 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days preceding the meeting.
Dated: 11th Dec. 1995
P W Arkless
Secretary

LEGAL NOTICES

CH NO 0605 OF 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF THREADWELL PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 8th day of November 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,000,000, to £300,000.
Then:
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard by a Chancery Judge sitting at the Manchester Crown Court Courts of Justice Crown Square Manchester M60 9DJ on Tuesday the 2nd day of January 1996 at 10.30 in the forenoon ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 15th day of December 1995
Rowlands, 35 Fountain Street Manchester M2 2AF
Solicitors for the above named Company.
Tel: 0161-228-1561 Ref: PM.MEJ

In the Matter of
STRATEGIC AVIATION SOLUTIONS LIMITED
And in the Matter of
The Insolvency Act 1986

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, on 21st December 1995 at 12.30 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Statements of claim, and proxy forms if applicable, must be lodged at PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, U.K., not later than 12 noon on 20th December 1995. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of KPMG Corporate Recovery, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, U.K., on the two business days prior to the meeting.
By Order of The Board Dated 8th December 1995
G J Curran - Director

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

هكذا من الاصل

Drama as industry committee's chairman keeps critics waiting

McCloy delivers belated apology

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

AFTER a day of high drama and behind-the-scenes manoeuvring, Matthew McCloy yesterday issued a statement apologising for any embarrassment racing may have suffered because of his much-publicised arrest in the United States.

The decision by the chairman of the British Horseracing Board's (BHB) industry committee to express his regret came only hours after he steadfastly refused to answer questions on the subject at the committee's annual forum staged in London.

However, after discussions with colleagues on the industry committee, notably Ian Balding, the Kingsclere trainer, McCloy accepted advice on the wisdom of clearing the air by releasing a statement.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CHURCH LAW
(3.10 Hereford)
Next best: My Handy Man
(2.50 Catterick)

"I have always acknowledged that racing has a legitimate interest in what occurred during my private visit to America at the end of October, given my position as chairman of the BHB industry committee. However, I have until now taken the view that it was a matter for my colleagues on the committee," the Newbury-based lawyer said.

"At the industry committee forum today I declined to deal with questions on the subject. The purpose of the forum is to give the BHB board an opportunity to review its achievements in the past year and to set out its future objectives."

McCloy, who was handcuffed by the captain of an American Airlines flight to New York and subsequently arrested before pleading guilty to disorderly conduct, added: "A great deal has been written and said about what occurred in New York. Many of the facts of the incident are still in dispute and these are being considered by my lawyers. Despite this I would like to apologise for any embarrassment that racing may have suffered.

"I hope my statement will bring this unfortunate episode to an end and I look forward to continuing my work with the BHB. I would particularly like to thank my colleagues on the industry committee and on the BHB board for their confidence and support."

In all probability, McCloy's apology will appease his critics and clear the way for his election to the BHB board next month. He is presently a co-opted, non voting member whose skills are widely acknowledged.

A resolution of the unhappy saga looked anything but on the cards when Guy Harwood, the Pulborough trainer, rose towards the end of the 2½-hour industry committee forum to ask McCloy for an explanation of his behaviour in the US. McCloy, who chaired the forum, responded by saying: "We will call proceedings to a halt now and there is lunch upstairs."

David Gibson, the outgoing president of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, said McCloy's conduct had received widespread coverage and needed to be settled in the public domain. Whereupon McCloy told the 135-strong audience: "In which case I draw this meeting to an end and look forward to seeing you upstairs for lunch."

Peter Cundell, president of the National Trainers' Federation, shouted: "Answer please." But with BHB board members, including Lord Hartington and Lord Wakeham, getting to their feet somewhat nervously, the forum came to an uneasy end.

As lunch was taken, the outlook for McCloy looked bleak with the prospect of untold damage to racing's image. "Perhaps I mishandled it," McCloy told reporters.

Balding, who has the highest regard for McCloy's abilities as a chairman, then stepped in to try to salvage the situation. He suggested a statement making clear his regret would lance the boil.

While forum guests enjoyed the buffet lunch, McCloy chatted with Michael Caulfield, a close ally from the Jockeys' Association, and, significantly, Rhydian Morgan Jones, one of his fiercest critics.

Inside the hour, McCloy returned to the BHB offices at Portman Square and began drawing up his statement.

In retrospect, McCloy probably wishes he had made such a statement after his return from the US. However, after completing his four-paragraph explanation, he appeared a highly relieved man who can at last look forward to the future.

Not surprisingly, the McCloy affair overshadowed events at the annual forum, which included an upbeat assessment of the BHB's achievements during the past year, particularly in the areas of marketing and race planning. However, proceedings underlined the growing maturity of the BHB as racing heads for the New Year.

ROBIN MAYES

McCloy takes time off for a cigarette after deflecting questions at the BHB's highly charged annual forum yesterday

HEREFORD

THUNDERER

12.40 Crack On. 1.10 Nordic Mine. 1.40 Hightown Cavalier. 2.10 FIRST CENTURY (nap). 2.40 Tony's Mist. 3.10 Church Law. 3.40 Jenzsoph.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 CORRIN HILL.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,374: 2m 1f) (16 runners)

101 BLUE CLANCY R Frost 6-11-5 J Frost –
102 1-32 CRACK ON 14 (G) P Hobbs 5-11-5 G McCourt [illegible]
103 0/ DIXTON HILL 604 R Dickin 7-11-5 D Meredith –
104 FARADAY D McCain 5-11-5 D McCain –
105 1- GORDON 328 (S) R Brotherton 4-11-5 L Harvey –
106 0/ MITTENWALD 604 K Bailey 6-11-5 J Osborne –
107 0 NEWS FROM AFAR 44 Mrs S Williams 4-11-5 A Tory –
108 4- PACIFIC POWER 603F A James 5-11-5 W Marston –
109 PERILOUS PLIGHT 20F W Muir 4-11-5 M Richards –
110 3-P POTTER'S BAY 41 D Nicholson 6-11-5 A Maguire 90
111 SCOTTISH BAMBI 181F P Webber 7-11-5 R Bellamy –
112 /52- WHATTABOB 279 (S) N Henderson 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald –
113 1/6 WIZZO 23 (F) B Palling 5-11-5 B Powell –
114 YOUNG TYCOON Mrs J Renfree-Barons 4-11-5 R Greene –
115 /00- DANCING BAREFOOT 295 D C Tucker 6-11-0 M Griffiths (7) –
116 LONICERA R Alner 5-11-0 R Johnson (3) –

7-4 Crack On, 3-1 Whattabob, 9-2 Potter's Bay, 7-1 Wizzo, 8-1 Gordon, 10-1 Perilous Plight, Scottish Bambi, 12-1 others.

1.10 THYME MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div II: £2,374: 2m 1f) (16)

201 AVANTI EXPRESS C Egerton 5-11-5 J Osborne –
202 5 BLAZE OF OAK 17 J Bradley 5-11-5 R Johnson (3) –
203 BOHEMIAN HARMONY Miss C Johnsey 5-11-5 D Gallagher –
204 0 EBONY BLAZE 8 C Wildman 4-11-5 A Tory [illegible]
205 313- EBULLIENT EQUINAME 237 (G,S) N Henderson 4-11-5 M A Fitzgerald –
206 4/ FINE STALKER 699P D Caro 7-11-5 D Bridgwater –
207 HONEY MOUNT 81F N Walker 4-11-5 A P McCoy –
208 I'LL BE BOUND 417F W Musson 4-11-5 G Bradley –
209 0/ LAID BACK BEN 821 B Palling 5-11-5 B Powell –
210 43/ NORDIC MINE 60F P Hobbs 5-11-5 Peter Hobbs –
211 0 RI NA MARA 37 Mrs S Williams 4-11-5 S McNeill –
212 SHABANAZ 20F W Muir 10-11-5 M Richards –
213 00-0 STEADY BARKER 18 R Alsop 5-11-5 Mr M Rimell –
214 0-06 BETHS WISH 16 G Price 8-11-0 R Davis 77
215 0- PRIOR'S CORNER 265 R Hawker 4-11-0 K Dempsey (7) –
216 TADELLAL 16F W G M Turner 4-11-0 A Thornton –

11-10 Ebullient Equiname, 4-1 Nordic Mine, 6-1 Honey Mount, 8-1 Blaze Of Oak, Avanti Express, 10-1 Shabanaz, 12-1 Fine Stalker, 14-1 others.

1.40 CLOVES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,940: 2m 3f 110yd) (13)

301 6/ SPARTS FAULT 609 P Eccles 5-12-0 Muredach Kelly (7) –
302 /22- HEART OF SPAIN 440 P Bevan 5-11-10 R Johnson (3) 96
303 5431 HIGHTOWN CAVALIER 14 (S) R Hodges 4-11-4 J Harris (10) 94
304 00-5 SORCIERE 98 G Balding 4-11-4 B Fenton (6) 85
305 6132 COPPERHURST 13 (G) W Kemp 4-11-2 A Manners (7) 95
306 PPP- MALFORD MADAM 210 R Hawker 5-10-9 K Dempsey (7) –
307 P-42 COLONEL COLT 17 R Dickin 4-10-7 Philip Hughes (10) 91
308 4U3- EMBLEY BUOY 269 (S) J Mullins 7-10-6 S Curran [illegible]
309 4-24 IZACOMIN 13 D Geraghty 6-10-6 G Cahill (5) 94
310 0P0- CELTIC REG 224 Mrs H Parrott 5-10-6 D Leahy –
311 /P4 HULLO MARY DOLL 16 S Mellor 6-10-4 Chris Webb (6) 89
312 050F RADIO CAROLINE 11 M Tate 7-10-3 R Massey (3) 87
313 PPP0 CELTIC WIND 11 T Morton 8-10-0 G Hogan –

11-4 Hightown Cavalier, 7-2 Copperhurst, 5-1 Heart Of Spain, 6-1 Sorciere, 7-1 Hullo Mary Doll, 8-1 Izacomin, 10-1 Colonel Colt, 12-1 others.

2.10 CARAWAY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,606: 2m) (8)

401 3123 FIRST CENTURY 23 (B,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-12-0 D Bridgwater 97
402 23P1 SOPHISM 14 (B,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-9 J Evans 92
403 0400 HASHAR 9 (B,F) P Wegmann 7-11-8 T Eley 88
404 6-UU PAGET 8 (G) P Nicholls 8-11-1 A P McCoy –
405 3-6F MR PRESIDENT 23 (B) C Brooks 6-10-11 G Bradley 94
406 0-12 RIVER LEVEN 14 (B,G,S) D Gandolfo 6-10-9 D Leahy –
407 -324 DAWN CHANCE 32 (D,BF,F) R Hodges 9-10-4 A Tory [illegible]
408 6003 FICHU 17 (F) Mrs L Richards 7-10-3 M Richards 90

2-1 First Century, 3-1 River Leven, 4-1 Sophism, 5-1 Paget, 8-1 Mr President, Dawn Chance, 10-1 others.

2.40 COWSLIP SELLING HURDLE (£1,982: 2m 1f) (16)

501 5-05 ALICANTE 20 (B,F) D McCain 8-11-7 D McCain 70
502 3FF5 ERLKING 10 (B,G) S Mellor 5-11-7 N Mann 92
503 -054 KALZARI 10 (G) A Carroll 10-11-7 A P McCoy 83
504 2060 LAWNSWOOD JUNIOR 48 (D,F) J Spearing 8-11-7 D Bridgwater 90
505 34/0 ARGAKIOS 20 (B,S) D Lloyd 8-11-2 B Fenton (5) –
506 /6P- BLUSHING STAR 424 J Peacock 8-11-2 W Marston –
507 P0-4 DANCE ON SIXPENCE 21 (B) J Peacock 7-11-2 R Bellamy 83
508 3-32 EULOGY 13 K Burke 8-11-2 A Larnach (3) 96
509 3200 KILLING TIME 27 (V) Mrs L Richards 4-11-2 M Richards 77
510 -040 MAI PEN RAI 16 (B) R Hodges 7-11-2 T Dascombe (5) 81
511 54-3 PERSIAN BUD 96 J Bosley 7-11-2 M Bosley 65
512 4002 TONY'S MIST 11 J Bradley 5-11-2 R Johnson (3) 94
513 P-22 WHITEBONNET 31 (B,BF) C Egerton 5-11-2 J Osborne [illegible]
514 P-00 PACIFIC SPIRIT 11 M Tate 5-10-11 D Gallagher 66
515 0-0 PLUM FANCY 22 R Frost 7-10-11 J Frost –
516 -4UF SABEEL 20 (B) T George 5-10-11 T Jenks 83

7-2 Whitebonnet, 9-2 Eulogy, 5-1 Tony's Mist, 6-1 Lawnswood Junior, 7-1 Kalzari, 8-1 Erlking, 10-1 Dance On Sixpence, 12-1 others.

3.10 COMFREY MAIDEN CHASE
(£3,620: 3m 1f 110yd) (16)

601 0P-2 ARCTIC RED 21 S Brookshaw 8-11-5 J Railton 88
602 006/ BADBURY PRINCE 1339 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 9-11-5 R Greene –
603 44-2 BALLYMGYR 54 S Mellor 6-11-5 N Mann 81
604 43-5 BIG ARTHUR 21 (BF) D Nicholson 6-11-5 A Maguire –
605 /23 CHURCH LAW 15 Mrs L Taylor 8-11-5 R Supple [illegible]
606 0/0 COUNTRY PARSON 8 J McConnochie 6-11-5 R Bellamy –
607 ITALIAN MAN G Charles-Jones 7-11-5 W McFarland –
608 06-F LO-FLYING MISSILE 33 R Dickin 7-11-5 B Powell –
609 3453 MAREMMA GALE 13 N Mitchell 7-11-5 C Maude 98
610 2 PRICE'S HILL 17 K Bailey 8-11-5 J Osborne 98
611 3-15 TEATRADER 29 (F,G,S) Mrs L Richards 8-11-5 M Richards –
612 0-0F WALLY'S DREAM 10 A James 6-11-5 D Leahy –
613 P8- WARNER'S SPORTS 208P P Hobbs 6-11-5 A P McCoy –
614 14- COUNTRY FLING 265P (S) L Cottrell 7-11-0 Mr L Jefford –
615 PEPPER'N THYNE P Webber 5-11-0 G McCourt –
616 -5P2 WAR FLOWER 15 (B) A Carroll 7-11-0 R Davis 76

9-4 Price's Hill, 7-2 Big Arthur, 5-1 Church Law, 6-1 Arctic Red, 8-1 War Flower, Maremma Gale, 10-1 Ballymgyr, 12-1 Warner's Sports, 14-1 others.

3.40 ROSEMARY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,682: 2m 1f) (9)

1 1132 WINDWARD ARIOM 21 (D,F,G,S) K Burke 8-11-10 A Larnach (3) 91
2 0130 SOUTHAMPTON 7 (V,D,F,G,S) G Balding 5-11-7 A P McCoy 91
3 11-0 HOSTILE WITNESS 181 (D,F,S) P Hedger 5-11-7 M Richards 88
4 3-F5 JENZSOPH 15 (D,BF,S) P Hobbs 4-11-3 Peter Hobbs 91
5 -010 HAWAIIAN SAM 18 (G) A Turnell 5-10-13 L Harvey 87
6 0031 HO-JOE 16 (CD,G,S) G Yardley 5-10-7 B Fenton (5) 84
7 3514 CORRIN HILL 23 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-10-1 T Dascombe (5) [illegible]
8 100- SEVERN GALE 296F (S) F Jordan 5-10-1 B Powell 86
9 0-01 PROJECT'S MATE 11 (CD,F,S) R Brown 8-10-0 R Johnson (3) 77

11-4 Windward Ariom, 3-1 Southampton, 4-1 Corrin Hill, 5-1 Hostile Witness, 6-1 Jenzsoph, 7-1 Ho-Joe, 10-1 Hawaiian Sam, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 13 winners from 26 runners, 50.0%; A Turnell, 5 from 12, 41.7%; C Egerton, 3 from 8, 37.5%; C Brooks, 4 from 12, 33.3%; M Pipe, 30 from 98, 30.6%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 10 winners from 36 rides, 27.8%; A P McCoy, 12 from 46, 26.1%; D Bridgwater, 21 from 104, 20.2%; N Mann, 7 from 35, 20.0%; S McNeill, 11 from 58, 19.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 2.50 Current Speech, In A Moment. Hereford: 2.10 Hashar, Mr President. 2.40 Alicante, Mai Pen Rai, Argakios, Dance On Sixpence. Lingfield Park: 1.30 Pertemps Flyer. 2.30 Blue Adelaide, Flagstaff.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Masnun. 1.00 Almuhtaram. 1.30 Mr Nevermind. 2.00 Homeland. 2.30 My Mother's Local. 3.00 Milngavie. 3.30 Invocation.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
12.30 Spencer's Revenge. 1.30 Sweet Supposin. 2.30 GREEN GEM (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 7F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.30 BROOKNIGHT GUARDING CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £2,828: 1m) (12 runners)

1 -221 EVERSET 328 (C,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-7 D Wright (3) 4
2 1163 SECOND COLOURS 18 (C,D,BF,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-3 G Parkin (5) 9
3 1112 SPENCER'S REVENGE 51 (C,D,BF,F,G) M Ryan 6-9-3 G Bardwell 3
4 40/ DUVEEN 17J (F,G,S) J White 5-8-13 P P Murphy (5) 7
5 3600 GREENWICH AGAIN 20 (CD,F,G) T Mills 3-8-11 W Newnes 6
6 0504 EASTLEIGH 9 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-8-7 F Lynch (7) 1
7 0631 MASNUN 35 (CD,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 10-8-7 A Clark 11
8 0140 SUPERLAO 34 (F,G) A Hermans (Bel) 3-8-6 J Tate 2
9 0003 DESERT WATER 24 J Bridger 3-8-5 J Quinn 10
10 6026 THE LITTLE FERRET 9 (D,F) A Moore 5-8-7 T Williams 12
11 0-0 SHEDANSAR 17J G L Moore 3-8-1 N Adams 8
12 0100 EUPHYLLIA 31J (F) Bob Jones 3-7-13 J Fanning 5

5-2 Spencer's Revenge, 7-2 Everset, 4-1 Second Colours, Masnun, 10-1 Greenwich Again, Euphyllia, 12-1 Superlao, 14-1 others.

1.00 LONDON CAR HIRE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£2,517: 1m 2f) (14)

1 3235 MENTALASANYTHIN 81 (C,D,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-12-0 Miss B Gatehouse (4) 11
2 6310 SEVENTEENS LUCKY 57 (G) Bob Jones 3-11-10 Miss D J Jones (4) 6
3 1000 BACKVIEW 33J (G) B Llewellyn 3-11-10 J L Llewellyn 12
4 -050 ABSOLUTELY FAYRE 170 (F) R Akehurst 4-11-10 T McCarthy 3
5 -002 SIR NORMAN HOLT 43 (B,C,F,G) R O'Sullivan 6-11-9 Mrs A Perrett 5
6 1060 TRIBAL PEACE 14 (CD,G,S) B Gubby 3-11-8 Mrs M Tingey (4) 14
7 4140 ALMUHTARAM 49 (B,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 3-11-2 M Armytage 2
8 /6-6 TAKE TWO 35J (F,G) J White 7-10-13 N Moran (7) 10
9 3003 RETENDER 15 (D,F,G) J Pearce 8-10-12 Mrs L Pearce 4
10 6005 OWDBETTS 8 (D,F,G) G L Moore 3-10-10 K Goble (4) 8
11 0400 SALTIS 16 D Arbuthnot 3-10-8 Mrs D Arbuthnot 1
12 4355 MONTONE 10J (F,G,S) J Jenkins 5-10-6 M Marnish (4) 9
13 0600 RAPSNORTER 20 (B,S) K Bishop 6-10-0 Miss A Purdy (4) 13
14 0600 PHANAN 3 (CD,F,G) R Peacock 9-9-7 Mrs C Peacock (7) 7

9-2 Sir Norman Holt, 5-1 Mentalasanythin, Retender, 6-1 Almuhtaram, 7-1 Montone, 8-1 Tribal Peace, Absolutely Fayre, 10-1 others.

1.30 BROOKNIGHT GUARDING CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £2,828: 1m) (12)

1 0001 SWEET SUPPOSIN 18 (V,CD,G) C Dwyer 4-9-7 C Dwyer 3
2 0410 DANCING HEART 20 (B,C,F,G) B Meehan 3-9-5 J F Egan 6
3 0021 MR NEVERMIND 16 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-1 S Whitworth 4
4 06 CALGARY GIRL 16 P Pritchard 3-9-0 N Adams 1
5 4S00 GALLIC VICTORY 67J (D,F,G) John Berry 4-8-13 G Faulkner (7) 2
6 2405 MR MEDLEY 24 (BF) R Hannon 3-8-11 W Newnes 12
7 0600 OOZLEM 20J (B,D,BF,F) J Poulton 6-8-10 G Bardwell 7
8 00/- VINTAGE RED 14J N Twiston-Davies 5-8-9 V Slattery 10
9 0302 NORDIC DOLL 16 (G) B Hills 3-8-8 A McGlone 5
10 00-6 PERTEMPS FLYER 20 (B) S Earle 4-8-3 C Rutter 8
11 0000 GREEN GOLIGHTLY 15 (F,S) D Wilson 4-8-3 L Newton (5) 9
12 TRIPLE Lord Huntingdon 3-8-2 S Sanders 11

2-1 Mr Nevermind, 3-1 Sweet Supposin, 4-1 Dancing Heart, 9-2 Nordic Doll, 10-1 Triple, 12-1 Mr Medley, 16-1 Pertemps Flyer, 20-1 others.

2.00 EASAL NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,469: 1m) (8)

1 5216 DOUBLE DIAMOND 25 (G) M Johnston 9-7 T Williams 2
2 6421 ARCTIC ROMANCER 16 (C,G) G Lewis 8-12 S Whitworth 6
3 0630 BLUE FLYER 3 (BF) R Ingram 7-13 D Biggs 5
4 0352 HOMELAND 15 (D,F,G) T Naughton 7-11 G Bardwell 3
5 5020 AUTOBABBLE 9 R Hannon 7-10 M Carlisle 7
6 2502 BATH KNIGHT 13 D ffrench Davis 7-8 N Adams 1
7 4305 SIX CLERKS 25 J Fitzgerald 7-7 J Quinn 8
8 5641 PEOPLE DIRECT 14 (D,G) K McAuliffe 7-7 D Wright (3) 4

7-2 Arctic Romancer, 4-1 Homeland, 5-1 Double Diamond, 6-1 Autobabble, People Direct, 7-1 Bath Knight, 10-1 Six Clerks, 12-1 Blue Flyer

2.30 KERSTEN PROMOTIONS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,739: 7f) (9)

1 00 FARMOST 48 M Prescott 9-0 C Nutter 2
2 000 FLAGSTAFF 34 (V) G L Moore 9-0 S Whitworth 5
3 HAPPY TRAVELLER C Murray 9-0 M Tebbutt 9
4 60 TAKE NOTE 107 N Graham 9-0 A McGlone 1
5 0 ACCOUNTANCY JEWEL 153 K McAuliffe 8-9 D Wright (3) 7
6 020 BLUE ADELAIDE 21 (B) P Cole 8-9 J Quinn 8
7 64 GREEN GEM 15 S Williams 8-9 J Tate 3
8 00 MY MOTHER'S LOCAL 9 K Cunningham-Brown 8-9 S Sanders 4
9 050 TAHYA 82 C C Elsey 8-9 C Rutter 6

5-2 Blue Adelaide, 3-1 Green Gem, 5-1 Farmost, 6-1 Flagstaff, 8-1 Tahya, 10-1 My Mother's Local, 12-1 Take Note, 20-1 Accountancy Jewel, Happy Traveller.

3.00 BIFFA RE-CYCLING HANDICAP
(£2,839: 2m) (14)

1 1006 ANJOU 24 (F) J Pearce 3-9-11 G Bardwell 9
2 0321 COLERIDGE 16 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Sheehan 7-9-10 J Quinn 12
3 4433 IKHTIRAA 10J (C,G,S) R O'Sullivan 5-9-9 W Woods 3
4 -560 MR COPYFORCE 71J (V,C,F,G) Miss B Sanders 5-9-8 W Newnes 8
5 3022 CHEZ CATALAN 99 (B,BF,F,G) R Akehurst 4-9-6 S Sanders 11
6 8301 GUEST ALLIANCE 15 (CD,G) A Moore 3-9-6 A Clark 2
7 0220 CALL ME ALBI 35J (F) G L Moore 4-9-3 S Whitworth 6
8 4044 STRAT'S LEGACY 15 (C,F,G) D Arbuthnot 8-9-1 J F Egan 7
9 5263 ENDLESS FANTASY 15 C Cyzer 3-8-12 D Biggs 13
10 3604 HEVER GOLF LADY 15 (BF,CD,G,S) T Naughton 3-8-12 T Ashley (7) 14
11 0406 CHUCKLESTONE 36J (CD,F,G) J King 12-8-9 J Tate 1
12 0030 AL CORNICHE 17J (F) K Cunningham-Brown 3-8-4 D Wright (3) 5
13 0015 MILNGAVIE 9 (B,CD,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-8-3 T Williams 4
14 6004 FOOLS OF PRIDE 18 (G) R Hollinshead 3-8-1 F Lynch (7) 10

3-1 Chez Catalan, 4-1 Coleridge, 5-1 Ikhtiraa, 6-1 Guest Alliance, Endless Fantasy, 7-1 Chucklestone, 10-1 Hever Golf Lady, 12-1 Milngavie, 14-1 others

3.30 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,138: 7f) (13)

1 0023 FOUR OF SPADES 8 (B,CD,F,G) P Evans 4-10-0 Amanda Sanders (7) 10
2 1300 INDRAPURA 181 (C,G) P Cole 3-9-13 C Rutter 3
3 0444 INVOCATION 16 (CD,F,G) A Moore 8-9-12 A Lakeman (7) 9
4 2012 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 24 (C,D,F,G) R O'Sullivan 7-9-12 S Sanders 1
5 0050 WARDARA 90 (V,G,S) C Dwyer 3-9-11 C Dwyer 2
6 3030 WHAT A NIGHTMARE 48 (D,F,G) P Howling 3-9-11 J Quinn 4
7 3220 FIELD OF VISION 16 (B,CD,BF,F) M Johnston 5-9-8 T Williams 12
8 1300 TYRIAN PURPLE 79 (B,C,D,F,G,S) T Naughton 7-9-4 T Ashley (7) 11
9 0000 ROBELLION 20 (V,F) D Arbuthnot 4-8-4 S Whitworth 5
10 0500 ROCKCRACKER 57 (F) G Margarson 3-8-1 A Clark 8
11 4000 INTENDANT 73 (F) J Fitzgerald 3-8-13 M Wigham 13
12 0153 FORT KNOX 16 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 4-8-10 D Biggs 7
13 0000 QUINZII MARTIN 8 (V,CD,G) D Haydn Jones 7-8-6 D Wright (3) 6

7-2 Crystal Heights, 4-1 Four Of Spades, 5-1 Invocation, 6-1 Fort Knox, 7-1 Field Of Vision, 10-1 Robellion, 12-1 Wardara, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Williams, 4 winners from 15 runners, 26.7%; Bob Jones, 6 from 23, 26.1%; G Lewis, 17 from 71, 23.9%; M Prescott, 23 from 99, 23.2%; P Cole, 23 from 103, 22.3%.

JOCKEYS: T Ashley, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; Amanda Sanders, 5 from 35, 14.3%; S Whitworth, 17 from 123, 13.8%; A Clark, 21 from 194, 10.8%; D Biggs, 45 from 425, 10.6%.

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RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Towcester

Going: soft

12.10 (2m hdle) 1, Mandys Mantino (P Hide, Evens fav, Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Buttercup Joe (11-2); 3, Kingdom Of Shades (5-1). 16 ran. ¾l, ¾l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.10; £1.30, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £5.20. Trio: £4.00. CSF: £8.24

12.40 (2m hdle) 1, Hawthorne Glen (B Fenton, 13-2); 2, Neveraid (7-2 fav); 3, Nicloni (14-1). 11 ran. 7l, 8l. Mrs M Long. Tote: £6.60; £2.40, £1.80, £5.90. DF: £17.90. Trio: not won (pool of £213.77 carried forward to 1.40 at Hereford today). CSF: £29.39. Tricast: £290.99.

1.10 (2m 6f ch) 1, Major Summit (P Hide, 5-4 fav); 2, Call It A Day (6-4); 3, Lay It Off (20-1). 10 ran. 3l, 30l. J Gifford. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £2.00, £3.10. DF: £2.20. Trio: £34.70. CSF: £3.55.

1.40 (2m hdle) 1, Ismeno (A Dicken, 8-1); 2, Dream Ride (6-1); 3, Dominos Ring (33-1). Maitre De Musique 6-2 fav. 15 ran. 1½l, 4l. S Dow. Tote: £10.10; £1.90, £1.80, £6.10. DF: £26.70. Trio: not won (pool of £262.34 carried forward to 1.40 at Hereford today). CSF: £53.35

2.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Tudor Fable (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2); 2, Repeat The Dose (7-2); 3, Mr Felix (11-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Dr Rocket. 4l, 9l. N Henderson. Tote: £3.90; £2.50, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £8.10. Trio: £12.60. CSF: £15.28. Tricast: £33.87.

2.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Will I Fly (B Fenton, 9-1); 2, Viardot (11-8 fav); 3, Topping Along (33-1). 15 ran. 6l, 11l. J Long. Tote: £10.20; £2.30, £1.30, £8.40. DF: £20.90. Trio: £383.30. CSF: £21.24.

3.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, Suny Bay (G Bradley, 9-4 fav); 2, Corner Boy (9-2); 3, Killeshin (33-1). 8 ran. NR: Simon Joseph. 5l, 20l. C Brooks. Tote: £3.40; £1.30, £1.90, £5.50. DF: £18.90. Trio: £131.20 (part won; pool of £64.68 carried forward to 1.40 at Hereford today). CSF: £12.88. Tricast: £242.09

3.40 (2m flat) 1, Boss's Bank (A Maguire, 8-1); 2, Forest Ivory (Evens fav); 3, Gysart (7-1). 18 ran. 2½l, 3½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £10.20; £4.30, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £6.10. Trio: £11.30. CSF: £13.90.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £23,282.54 carried forward to Hereford today).

Placepot: £82.20. Quadpot: £25.30.

Southwell

Going: good, good to firm in places

1.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Walking Tall (T J Murphy, 5-1); 2, Desert Brave (25-1); 3, General Crack (9-4 jt-fav). Foxtrot Romeo 9-4 jt-fav. 9 ran. ¾l, 2½l. T McGovern. Tote: £7.20; £1.60, £8.20, £1.60. DF: £25.90. Trio: £70.00. CSF: £90.17.

1.30 (2m ch) 1, Fierce (J Railton, 11-2); 2, Early Drinker (7-2); 3, Chadwick's Ginger (15-8 fav). 7 ran. 1¼l, 3½l. J Jenkins. Tote: £9.10; £2.40, £1.60. DF: £15.90. CSF: £22.54.

2.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Jihaad (E Callaghan, 14-1); 2, Blazon of Troy (7-1); 3, Alaskan Heir (8-1). Viceroy Ruler 9-4 fav. 9 ran. ¾l, 1l. J Norton. Tote: £22.50; £3.00, £2.50, £2.60. DF: £75.50. Trio: £68.90 (part won; pool of £68.02 carried forward to 1.40 at Hereford today). CSF: £98.41. Tricast: £768.02.

2.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Peruvian Gale (R Guest, 7-2); 2, Jason's Boy (100-30); 3, Lyme Gold (8-1). Group Hat 3-1 fav. 10 ran. ¾l, 9l. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £4.20; £1.30, £1.40, £3.90. DF: £7.10. Trio: £67.30. CSF: £15.69. Tricast: £82.04.

3.00 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Larry's Lord (A P McCoy, 5-2); 2, Bavard Bay (33-1); 3, Supposin (12-1). Easby Joker 5-4 fav (f). 6 ran. 5l, 30l. P Nicholls. Tote: £3.70; £1.10, £5.00. DF: £278.30. CSF: £44.20

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, Simply (A P McCoy, 5-1); 2, Mr Moriarty (2-5 fav); 3, Tristan's Comet (12-1). 5 ran. 2l, 25l. T McGovern. Tote: £5.90; £2.20, £1.20. DF: £2.40. CSF: £7.35

Placepot: £139.00. Quadpot: £18.20.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.20 (7f) 1, Hawaii Storm (J Williams, 8-1); 2, Maid Welcome (7-1); 3, Our Shadee (7-1); 4, Sharp Imp (7-2 fav). 16 ran. 1l, 3½l. D ffrench Davis. Tote: £12.50; £1.90, £1.90, £2.50, £1.60. DF: £26.80. Trio: £27.00. CSF: £66.10. Tricast: £393.36.

12.50 (1m 6f) 1, Broughtons Formula (J Wilkinson, 7-2); 2, Glow Forum (7-1); 3, Wildfire (11-4 fav). 14 ran. 2½l, 2l. W Musson. Tote: £5.20; £1.80, £2.40, £2.00. DF: £33.40. Trio: £26.60. CSF: £29.74. Tricast: £75.31

1.20 (5f) 1, Ziggy's Dancer (S D Williams, 100-30 fav); 2, Inherent Magic (9-1); 3, Shadow Jury (9-1). 9 ran. NR: Hever Golf Star. ½l, 1½l. E Alston. Tote: £4.20; £2.30, £3.30, £4.00. DF: £16.40. Trio: £63.60. CSF: £32.60. Tricast: £234.49.

1.50 (7f) 1, Ultra Barley (M Baird, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Plein Gaz (5-2 jt-fav); 3, Rowlandsons Charm (6-1). 12 ran. 3½l, ½l. P Haslam. Tote: £2.60; £1.70, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £7.70. Trio: £12.70. CSF: £9.64.

2.20 (6f) 1, Carmarthen Bay (J Williams, 9-2); 2, Creeking (11-2); 3, Darby Flyer (12-1). La Perruche 5-2 fav. 9 ran. 8l, 6l. G L Moore. Tote: £5.40; £1.40, £2.00, £6.20. DF: £57.50. Trio: £80.20. CSF: £29.50

2.50 (1m) 1, Easy Choice (A Clark, 7-2); 2, Duke Valentino (6-1); 3, Toujours Riviera (12-1). South Eastern Fred 11-4 fav. 9 ran. 2l, 3l. P Mitchell. Tote: £4.30; £1.80, £2.10, £3.10. DF: £21.60. Trio: £59.30. CSF: £23.82. Tricast: £209.08

3.20 (7f) 1, Scissor Ridge (J Quinn, 9-2); 2, Mylinka (5-1); 3, It's So Easy (33-1). Sally Weld 7-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Pacific Girl, Serious Fact. Nk, 3l. J Bridger. Tote: £5.20; £2.00, £2.50, £22.70. DF: £7.90. Trio: £215.40. CSF: £27.93. Tricast: £627.81.

Placepot: £15.80. Quadpot: £29.00

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

12.50 Old Habits
1.20 Wills Telmar
1.50 Fryup Satellite
2.20 Forbidden Time
2.50 In A Moment
3.20 Sheilas Hillcrest

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 CATTERICK LUCKY SEVENS INSTANT GAMBLE HANDICAP HURDLE
(Amateurs: £2,229: 2m 3f) (13 runners)

1 0132/P6 ROSCOMMON JOE 22 (S) (Mrs C Sweeney) J J O'Neill 5-12-0 Miss S Karswell –
2 232-212 OLD HABITS 48 (BF,F) (R Thomson) J Eyre 6-11-13 Miss P Robson (7) 98
3 13/P-P23 DEEP DAWN 16 (S) (S Clark) S Clark 12-11-10 Miss R Clark (7) 98
4 P/P-5422 ABLE PLAYER 16 (B,F,G,S) (Miss K Bramall) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-7 K Whelan (5) 98
5 60022/0 ALMAMZAR 13 (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 5-11-7 Miss P Jones (5) 90
6 45-1126 HIGHLAND PARK 13 (F) (R Craggs) R Craggs 9-11-2 C Bonner (3) [illegible]
7 53-F0U0 ORD GALLERY 22 (G Shiel) T Dyer 6-10-13 J McGurgan (7) 94
8 5100-53 FLY TO THE END 16 (C,S) (J Muir) J Quinn 5-10-12 S Swiers 97
9 5PP0-00 NO WORD 7 (F) (S Hodson) R Bastiman 8-10-11 I Baker (7) –
10 00123-U RUA ROS 27 (C,S) (R Preston) Mrs S Smith 5-10-7 P Murray (7) 90
11 000-00 MR SLOAN 22 (J Goldie) J Goldie 5-10-1 R Thornton (7) 80
12 4/UP- MISTER POINT 209P (G,S) (Mrs E Moscrop) Mrs E Moscrop 13-10-0 L Corcoran (7) –
13 0-F4535 GONE AWAY 31 (M Hammond) M Hammond 6-10-0 T Whitaker (7) 94

Long handicap: Gone Away 9-10.

BETTING: 11-4 Old Habits, 3-1 Highland Park, 9-2 Able Player, 6-1 Fly To The End, 8-1 Roscommon Joe, 10-1 Almamzar, Deep Dawn, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

OLD HABITS 3½l 2nd of 5 to Tighter Budget in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). DEEP DAWN ½l 3rd of 13 to Kimberley Boy in selling handicap hurdle here (2m, good to firm). ABLE PLAYER 12l 2nd of 6 to Desert Fighter in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle over course and distance (good to firm) with FLY TO THE END (1lb better off) ½l 3rd. HIGHLAND PARK 7l 2nd of 4 to Simply Dashing in novice handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good to firm) penultimate start. RUA ROSS 18l 3rd of 9 to Manwell in handicap hurdle at Hexham (3m, heavy) final start last season. GONE AWAY 14½l last of 6 to Moonshine Dancer in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: HIGHLAND PARK

1.20 GLEBE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,976: 2m) (13 runners)

1 415-251 SALMAN 27 (CD,F,G) (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 9-11-7 DOUBTFUL 92
2 143454- ANOTHER VENTURE 174F (S) (R Wheeler) F Murphy 5-11-0 D J Kavanagh (5) –
3 40-5066 BOETHIUS 11 (J Walton) F Walton 6-11-0 – –
4 324-132 BRIAR'S DELIGHT 38 (V,BF,F,G) (A Clark) R Allan 7-11-0 J Callaghan [illegible]
5 1120/60- FIVE TO SEVEN 29F (S) (Five to Seven Pens) C Thornton 6-11-0 P Carberry –
6 325216- KNOW-NO-NO 211 (S) (Mrs A Kane) M Hammond 6-11-0 Mr C Bonner (3) –
7 65111-6 LORD DORCET 18 (F,G) (J Hogg) J Charlton 5-11-0 B Storey –
8 /U6026/ MACCONACHIE 632 (M Sunley) M Dods 8-11-0 T Reed –
9 5P0-333 MHEMEANLES 27 (F) (G Farndon) J Wilson 5-11-0 R Guest –
10 004-10F OLD ALE 8 (F) (J Curtis) J Curtis 5-11-0 L O'Hara –
11 5/P85-50 SHAMSHOM AL ARAB 15 (F,G) (Mrs S Ellison) B Ellison 7-11-0 B Harding (3) –
12 000-4 STRONG BLADE 67 (J Wade) J Wade 5-11-0 K Jones –
13 4111-FU WILLS TELMAR 11 (BF,F,G,S) (B Parkinson) M Todhunter 7-11-0 R Garritty 91

BETTING: 7-2 Wills Telmar, 9-2 Briar's Delight, 5-1 Lord Dorcet, 6-1 Five To Seven, 7-1 Know-No-No, 8-1 Another Venture, 12-1 others.

1994: SEAGULL HOLLOW 5-11-7 R Garritty (4-6 fav) M H Easterby 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

ANOTHER VENTURE 10½l 4th of 14 to Val De Rama in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, firm) final start last season. BRIAR'S DELIGHT 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Highland Poacher in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good to firm). FIVE TO SEVEN best effort 12l 2nd of 13 to Morcell in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, soft) March 1994. KNOW-NO-NO beat Marco Magnifico 7l in 7-runner novice hurdle at Perth (2m 110yd, good) penultimate start last season.
LORD DORCET beat Imhotep 7l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to firm) final start last season.
MHEMEANLES 15½l 3rd of 4 to Never So Blue in lady riders handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to firm). STRONG BLADE 12l 4th of 10 to Sir Gymcrak in National Hunt Flat race at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, firm).
WILLS TELMAR 4l 2nd and ridden, unseated rider 2 out behind Rocket Run in 10-runner novice chase at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good to firm).
No selection

1.50 RAFFYARD HOUSE SELLING HURDLE
(£1,958: 2m 3f) (7 runners)

1 100-022 JOYRIDER 23 (S) (The Joyriders) Miss M Milligan 4-11-7 R Guest [illegible]
2 2544F/6 SAFARI PARK 17 (F) (R Bethell) W Bethell 6-11-2 A S Smith –
3 0P0-50 BILLYTOBINSLAD 67 (P Aconley) Mrs V Aconley 4-11-0 P Gould (7) –
4 00 FRYUP SATELLITE 17 (J Lees) Mrs J Brown 4-11-0 E Callaghan (7) 89
5 P0/F430 SHARP AT SIX 36 (Mrs L Dyer) T Dyer 5-11-0 L Wyer 90
6 04-0U RESTATE 18 (Mrs K Cunningham) F Murphy 4-10-9 P Carberry –
7 U0-5300 WHITEGATESPRINCESS 9 (Red Onion) B Ellison 4-10-9 B Harding (3) 78

BETTING: 4-6 Joyrider, 5-1 Safari Park, 6-1 Fryup Satellite, Whitegatesprincess, 8-1 Sharp At Six, 16-1 Restate, 25-1 Billytobinslad.

1994: BOLD PURSUIT 5-11-0 M Dwyer (3-1) J Fitzgerald 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

JOYRIDER 10l 2nd of 10 to Rachael's Owen in handicap hurdle at Hexham (2m, good). SAFARI PARK tailed off 6th of 7 to Star Rage in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). FRYUP SATELLITE 25l 10th of 18 to Turnpole in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good). SHARP AT SIX 10l 3rd of 8 to Wild Rose of York in selling novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to firm) penultimate start. RESTATE 28l 8th of 13 to Succotash in National Hunt Flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good) penultimate start. WHITEGATESPRINCESS best effort 11½l 3rd of 8 to Scorched Air in selling hurdle at Hexham (2m, good to firm)
Selection: JOYRIDER (nap)

2.20 WESTHORPE NOVICES CHASE
(£2,846: 3m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

1 2213-21 FORBIDDEN TIME 23 (G,S) (Mrs J Pentherer) L Lungo 7-11-6 T Reed [illegible]
2 0-140P6 SHULTAN 11 (F) (J Wade) J Wade 6-11-1 K Jones –
3 PP/ FARMER'S HAND 601 (K Morton) B Ellison 8-11-0 B Harding (3) –
4 5/P33-34 SHAWWELL 20 (F,G) (Mrs J Straker) J Charlton 8-11-0 B Storey 68
5 F5UP-05 SHUIL SAOR 16 (F) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-11-0 R Guest 73
6 PB16-PF SOLOMAN SPRINGS 23 (F) (Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 5-10-13 D Parker (3) –

BETTING: 4-6 Forbidden Time, 5-2 Shawwell, 8-1 Soloman Springs, 12-1 Shuil Saor, 16-1 Shultan, 33-1 Farmer's Hand.

1994: PORTONIA 10-12-0 P Niven (10-11 jt-fav) Mrs M Reveley 2 ran

FORM FOCUS

FORBIDDEN TIME beat Earlymorning Light ¾l in 9-runner novice chase at Hexham (2m 110yd, good). SHULTAN best effort beat Hannies Girl 8l in 15-runner Beginners Chase at Clonmel (2m 2f, good to firm). SHAWWELL tailed off 4th of 6 to Seven Towers in novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). SHUIL SAOR tailed off 5th of 11 to Twin States in handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm). SOLOMAN SPRINGS best effort beat Washington Heights 20l in handicap hurdle at Southwell (3m 110yd, good to firm) last season.
Selection: FORBIDDEN TIME

2.50 RABY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,042: 2m) (14 runners)

1 5/4-103 ERINY 9 (D,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) J Quinn 6-11-12 M Dwyer 90
2 00/3022 KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 11 (BF) (P Cronin) J Parkes 5-11-12 A Dobbin 91
3 35-4264 CAMPTOSAURUS 11 (Mrs D Alder) D Alder 6-11-9 D Parker (3) 93
4 0252-54 STASH THE CASH 22 (G Shiel) T Dyer 4-11-8 P Niven 93
5 060 TANSEED 20 (Miss N Taylor) M Meagher 4-11-7 D Byrne 84
6 0P-064 CURRENT SPEECH 7 (B) (C Stevens) M H Easterby 4-11-4 L Wyer 90
7 /F000-P AVENUE FOCH 8F (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 6-11-4 M Foster 89
8 033- JENDORCET 335 (Mrs P Taylor-Garthwaite) C Fairhurst 5-11-0 J Callaghan 88
9 06-5 BLUE DOMAIN 36 (R Craggs) R Craggs 4-11-0 N Smith 93
10 U06 MY HANDY MAN 18 (I Bell) R Allan 4-10-11 S Melrose (7) 87
11 06-0425 THISONESFORALICE 11 (BF) (Mrs A Goldie) J Goldie 7-10-9 F Perratt (3) 97
12 06625P LITTLE TINCTURE 13 (B) (Mrs T Skinner) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 5-10-6 G Upton 98
13 0/0000-6 GULER-A 9 (R Craggs) R Craggs 7-10-6 B Storey –
14 60-0 IN A MOMENT 17 (B) (Mrs E Dresser) T Barron 4-10-3 B Harding (3) [illegible]

BETTING: 4-1 Eriny, 9-2 Kilnamartyra Girl, 5-1 In A Moment, 6-1 Camptosaurus, Stash The Cash, 10-1 Jendorcet, Current Speech, My Handy Man, 14-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ERINY 5½l 3rd of 7 to Buckley Boys in novice handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good) with GULER-A (4lb better off) 22½l 6th. KILNAMARTYRA GIRL 6l 2nd of 9 to Botaney Girl in maiden hurdle at Edinburgh (2m, good to firm). CAMPTOSAURUS 9½l 4th of 8 to Blue Charm in novice handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (2m 4f, good to firm) with THISONESFORALICE 2½l 5th. STASH THE CASH 20l 4th of 8 to Once More For Luck in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). CURRENT SPEECH 14¾l 4th of 11 to Mr Moriarty in novice handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firm). JENDORCET 3l 3rd of 13 to Sefura in selling hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good). IN A MOMENT 18l 8th of 24 to Jalcanto in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to firm) with BLUE DOMAIN (11lb worse off) 9l 12th.
Selection: IN A MOMENT

3.20 BOVILLE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,821: 2m 3f) (4 runners)

1 30/530-1 SHEILAS HILLCREST 10 (S) (N Mason) N Mason 9-11-10 S Haworth (7) 95
2 22F-412 JUDICIAL FIELD 11 (B,F,S) (Mrs E Newbould) N Tinkler 6-11-4 M Dwyer [illegible]
3 24P-035 NORTH PRIDE 9 (C,F,S) (J Wills) M Barnes 10-10-12 P Waggott 98
4 43UP22 RIVER RED 20 (F) (K Frost) K Frost 8-10-9 P McLoughlin 94

BETTING: 4-6 Sheilas Hillcrest, 5-2 River Red, 6-1 Judicial Field, 8-1 North Pride.

1994: STRONG APPROACH 9-10-13 A Dobbin (5-2) J Charlton 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHEILAS HILLCREST beat Sizzling Affair 2l in 7 runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). JUDICIAL FIELD 5l 2nd of 5 to Class Of Ninetytwo in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (3m, good to firm). NORTH PRIDE 9½l 3rd of 6 to Flash Of Realm in handicap chase here (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. RIVER RED 15l 2nd of 8 to Sailor Jim in handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good).
Selection: JUDICIAL FIELD

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
C Thornton	4	8	50.0	A S Smith	12	36	33.3
J Quinn	4	13	30.8	M Dwyer	18	62	29.0
L Lungo	8	33	24.2	P Niven	17	82	20.7
N Tinkler	7	33	21.2	A Dobbin	12	76	15.8
M H Easterby	11	76	14.5	R Garritty	13	91	14.3
Mrs V Aconley	5	36	13.9	D Byrne	6	42	14.3

Maguire strikes

ADRIAN MAGUIRE returned from a month's absence because of injury with a winner at Towcester yesterday, guiding Boss's Bank to victory in the BCA Standard Open National Hunt Flat race. Maguire was passed fit by the racecourse doctor before the meeting.

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Mathis finds the faith to face threat of Tyson

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN PHILADELPHIA

IF YOU were to line up Buster Mathis Jr alongside six other heavyweights and ask a non-boxing man to pick out Mike Tyson's opponent here tomorrow, you could bet your life he would not point at Mathis.

Mathis does not look the part. He appears an overweight middleweight, being just one inch taller than Tyson, at 6ft. A dog collar rather than boxing gloves might seem more appropriate on the reserved United States Boxing Association heavyweight champion. If he had enough money, he would have given up boxing to spread the word of Jesus. His mother is a Jehovah's Witness, as was his father Buster Mathis Sr, who died last September.

"If I had Tyson's money I would be gone like a shot," Mathis said. "I feel sorry for Tyson. He's got all the money and recognition and he doesn't seem happy."

Still a bachelor at 25, Mathis lives with his mother in Wyoming, Michigan, and prefers to concentrate on his studies to gain a BSc in Computer Science than on boxing. "I'm not your average kid who has come up from the streets looking for his next meal. My mother is a Jehovah's Witness and my father was a Witness, too. I am not a dedicated Witness but I like learning about the Almighty.

"I am an honest human being. I don't smoke, don't do drugs, don't party, don't drink and I have no car. I take my money and put it in the bank and invest it. I buy no fancy clothes. There's no lady in my life. No one wants me. I live with my mum, Joan, and most definitely I'm Mama's boy, big time."

Mathis is as modest as his father was. Boxing was never the topic of conversation around the Mathis household even though his father was a top contender in the golden days of Ali and Frazier and boxed with them. "I found out about my father from neighbours and by rifling through clippings about his fight with Frazier," Mathis said.

In short, Buster Mathis Jr is too much of a nice guy to be in the position to be brutalised by Tyson at the Spectrum tomorrow. Yet, by a curious irony, Mathis has learnt the same boxing philosophy as Tyson. He was taught by his father, who was trained by Cus D'Amato, as was Tyson. When he asked his father to teach him boxing, Mathis Sr said: "Son, you can play football, you can play baseball, but remember, you can't play boxing."

Mathis took this advice seriously. Under his father's tutelage he practised boxing for a full year before even attempting to spar. He started boxing as an amateur in 1986, won the Golden Gloves and a few other amateur titles, turned professional in 1991 and is unbeaten in 22 contests. On his record he has names such as Levi Billups, Mike Dixon, Mike Hunter, Alex Garcia and Riddick Bowe. The bout with Bowe was indecisive, as it was declared a no-contest after Bowe hit him while he was still on the floor.

Mathis is trained by Joey Fariello, also of the D'Amato school and a close friend of the boxer's father. "My father told me to stay with Joey," Mathis said. "My father couldn't read or write, but he could read people."

Even though Mathis does not have a punch to deter Tyson, Fariello says, technically, he is as accomplished as other heavyweights and can look after himself — though he did not say for how long.

Although Mathis has been given no chance, Tyson would do well to remember another Buster in his life — Douglas. Just as Mathis lost his father recently, Douglas, too, lost his mother just before his sensational victory over Tyson. Both Mathis and Douglas come from the mid-West. Douglas was given no chance just like Mathis: Douglas was 42-1, Mathis is 25-1.

Mathis: taught by father

No net gains from battle of Hastings

Matthew Syed, of England, demonstrates his extraordinary service action during the defeat by Germany in the European table tennis league. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

It has always been a good fixture, England v Germany, and our record is sound: Fred Perry beat Gottfried von Cramm at Wimbledon and we took the World Cup in 1966 and while they are currently ahead in Formula One motor racing, we are murdering them in the triple jump.

I thought Hastings, where the contest was to take place, a strange choice ... like France naming Agincourt as the venue for playing us at real tennis; as I made my way there I think I might have discovered what it was that undid us 929 years ago: the location. On the South Eastern line, Hastings is ten stops from Tunbridge Wells and if you need reinforcement when the day goes against you, speed of access and facility of approach are paramount.

FREUD ON FRIDAY

At 7pm proceedings started in the most civilised manner: non-playing captain Jill Parker MBE led out our women's team, non-playing captain Desmond Douglas MBE was at the head of our men. The deputy mayor arrived to welcome both nations' representatives and shake their hands before we stood for the national anthems: *Deutschland Uber Alles* played rather more quietly than *God Save the Queen*, but that may be because Germany is and Her Majesty needs all the help that is available.

"Thank you distinguished guests; it remains for me only to invite the team captains to wish each other good luck," a cultured voice over the public address system said.

Hastings sports centre is in Bohemia Road not far from the pier. The crowd was about 200, politely partisan and the men's and women's table tennis events take place simultaneously on the centre's adjoining courts.

Our men are striving for survival in the European league super division which they have graced for 20 years. Our women have had a successful time of it and are up there, near the top, fighting for honours. My mentor said: "Germany are tough competitors."

Each court is substantial in size with the table in the middle seeming almost an irrelevance. A firm called Joola have sponsored the men's league so you have a Joola surface with Joola bats hitting Joola balls over Joola nets; players dry their perspiring faces with Joola towels taken from the Joola linen cupboard. The women's league is provisioned by Butterfly of Japan.

It begins with the knock-up which is mind-blowing; if you thought you play ping pong, watch ten seconds of knock-up — in the course of which the ball crosses the net and is returned 23 times, never rising more than an inch above the tape — and reconsider.

Each court is administered by a referee and two umpires; I watch Chen Xin Hua, who comes from Rotherham, though not originally, play a valiant game against Richard Prause, who kept in constant eye contact with the German coach, who greeted every winning point regardless of whether it had been won by skill or unforced error with variations of "bravo" taken from the German Thesaurus: "*Toll, trau, fein* and *ja mensch*' all received their outings. Chen won in the third set. On the distaff court, Luton's Lisa Lomas lost to Nicola Struse: I did not care for her eurhythmics at 19-19 in the final game when her opponent was waiting to serve.

A match consists of seven games: three singles, one double then three more rearranged singles. The first team to get four wins takes the points. Our women succumbed by four games to nil. Our men put up a tremendous fight with Matthew Syed the player of the night. We lost by the odd game in seven, Syed having beaten both his opponents, winning his first game after trailing 18-12 ... not a position from which one tends to win.

But Syed from Reading via Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a First in politics, philosophy and economics, is no ordinary player. Having achieved some fame as an exponent of defence — he can stand two full table-lengths behind the playing surface and nine times out of ten return smashes with stunning accuracy — he has now developed an attacking side to his game.

'A strange choice — like France using Agincourt as the venue for real tennis'

An outgoing, likeable, engaging man, he is toying with the idea of becoming the next prime minister but three; in the meantime he has signed for the French table tennis league club, Montpellier, and flies out to their matches, has three times won the $10,000 Sears international in Chicago and is likely to qualify for one of the 64 places in the Atlanta Olympics at the Manchester eliminators next month.

In the days when 10,000 people watched table tennis at Wembley, he would have been a contestant for Sports Personality of the Year: dark, handsome, athletic, fast with an indomitable will to win and the ability to come back from adversity, he also has one of the all-time cunning serves.

He stands at the side of the table, raises his right leg, digs in the left toe, throws up the ball and as it is about to disappear under the table his bat comes from the region of his jock strap and viciously spins the ball across the net as his arm brushes his side. He punctuates the serve by stamping his right foot on the floor. We shall hear a great deal about this man who will bring credit to British sport.

West Indies squaring up to the dilemma over Lara

By SIMON WILDE

CRICKET in the Caribbean has not known a crisis such as the one facing it now since Kerry Packer threw the game into worldwide turmoil 18 years ago. Whatever action the West Indies Cricket Board of Control takes against Brian Lara today, the island rivalries that have been inflamed by the on-going — and now very public — dispute between the West Indies team management and its leading player are unlikely to be brought to an end.

Since Lara precipitated the crisis last month by withdrawing at the eleventh hour from a minor tour of Australia, both sides have made their positions clear, the management through the unprecedented means of leaking confidential reports about the tour of England earlier this year.

Lara believes that weak management and insubordination among senior players have reached intolerable levels. Wes Hall, the West Indies manager, and Richie Richardson, the captain, think Lara is being damaged by his unparalleled commercial demands and has ambitions to captain the team himself, though one would have thought the added responsibility of captaincy was the last thing he needed.

The board is on a hiding to nothing. If it does not discipline Lara, and leaves the way open for him to rejoin the team for the World Cup in February, it will invite accusations of favouritism and further outspoken attacks. If it fines or suspends Lara, it will make itself unpopular with many sections of the public and may further alienate a player it can ill afford to be without.

Lara has said that, even if he were invited to play in the World Cup, he would have to consider whether he should accept. Indeed, it is hard to see how he could work effectively again with Hall or Richardson, both of whom — like Andy Roberts, the coach — have been confirmed in their positions for the World Cup. But, when all is said and done, no governing body can allow itself to be dictated to by one player. Lara craves leadership and an end to insubordination. The West Indies board should make a start forthwith.

Speaking from Australia, where his side is preparing to play Sri Lanka today, Richardson was anxious to play down the rift. "I want to focus on what we've got to do in the World Series," he said. "The Lara situation is behind us."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This Refresher is about safety play. How would you set about Six Hearts on a diamond lead?

♠K Q 6
♥2
♦A K 8
♣Q J 8 6 5 2

N
W E
S

♠A J 9 2
♥A Q J 9 7 6 5
♦3
♣K

Contract: Six Hearts by South
Lead: Queen of Diamonds

Six Hearts is not much of a contract but it has improved considerably now that the declarer has escaped a club lead. How do you make use of your good fortune?

First you count your tricks — four in spades and two in diamonds. So if you can make six tricks in hearts you will be home. If the hearts are 3-2, you will only lose one trick in the suit. However, can you do anything if either defender holds king ten to four trumps?

Say East has that holding. If you take a finesse through him and play off the ace, he will still hold K 10, which will be worth two tricks against your Q x. So is there any other 4-1 break that is relevant?

What if the singleton king is with West? Then it gains if you start with the ace. That way you succeed against all 3-2 breaks, and against those 4-1 breaks in which either the ten or the king is singleton. Playing the finesse loses against one of those combinations, that where West has the singleton king.

Hence, the correct line in Six Hearts is to take two top diamonds, discarding the king of clubs and then play ace and queen of hearts. This is the East - West distribution you are guarding against:

West		East
♠10 8 7 5 3	N	♠4
♥K	W E	♥10 8 4 3
♦Q J 10 9	S	♦7 6 5 4 2
♣10 7 4		♣A 9 3

☐ There is an Evening of Bridge on Tuesday, January 30 1996 at the Draper's Hall, in aid of Barnardos. There are lots of wonderful prizes. Luminaries of the bridge world, like Zia Mahmood and Bob Hamman, will pass among the tables giving words of encouragement and sympathy. Tickets are £75 each for dinner and bridge. Black tie. Enquiries to Helen Hirons (Barnardos), tel 0181-550 8822.

☐ *Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.*

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OCCITAN
a. Left-handed
b. A Venetian helmsman
c. Provençal

RUBIK
a. A Hungarian dialect
b. Beetroot
c. A maddening cube

PIKER
a. A freelance spearsman
b. A timid gambler
c. An angler

PUPUNHA
a. An Amerindian tribe
b. Ritual disdain
c. A fruit tree

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer defeated

Garry Kasparov upheld the honour of human mental powers against the brute force of the silicon-based calculating machine in his two-game match against the Pentium processor-powered Fritz computer program in London on Wednesday. Kasparov took the honours with one win and one draw. The computer was able to calculate 10 million positions per minute and operated at 150Mhz. However, this was not enough to save it against the champion's intense onslaught.

Here is Kasparov's win. Kasparov used psychology directed against Herr Matthias Feist, the human operator of the program: Kasparov's seventh move ... Ba6 was very unusual. Playing the move 7 ... Bb7 is the accepted main line. Herr Feist from Hamburg assumed that Kasparov had, in fact, played 7 ... Bb7, the normal move and keyed this into the computer.

The result was that, until the error was discovered three moves later, the computer was analysing the wrong position and therefore played a number of unnecessary defensive moves. Having gained the advantage by this psychological ploy directed against human inattentiveness, rather than computer weakness, Kasparov fastened on White's shaky queenside and forced an easy victory.

White: Pentium processor/Fritz
Black: Garry Kasparov
Intel World Chess Man v Machine Competition, December 1995

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	b6
7	Bg5	Ba6
8	e3	d6
9	f3	Nbd7
10	Bd3	h6
11	Bh4	c5
12	Rd1	Rc8
13	Ne2	cxd4
14	Qxd4	Ne5
15	b3	Nxd3+
16	Qxd3	d5
17	Qc3	Ne4
18	Qxg7+	Kxg7
19	Bxd8	Rfxd8
20	fxe4	dxc4
21	bxc4	Rxd1+
22	Kxd1	Rxc4
23	Kd2	Ra4
24	Ra1	Bxe2
25	Kxe2	b5
26	Rb1	a6
27	Rb3	Rxe4
28	Rc3	Ra4
29	h3	h5
30	g3	f5
31	Rb3	Kf6
32	Rc3	Ke5
33	Kf3	Kd5
34	Rd3+	Kc4
35	Rd6	Kb3
36	Rxe6	Kxa3
37	Ke2	a5
38	Re5	b4
39	Rb5	b3
40	Kd3	Kb2
41	h4	Ra1
42	Rxf5	a4
43	Rxh5	a3
44	Ra5	a2
45	h5	Rh1
46	Kc4	a1Q

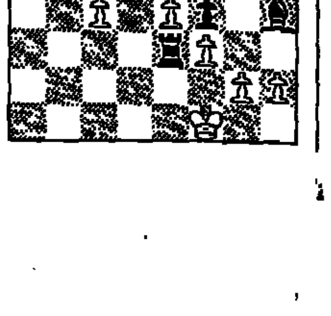
White resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Plaskett - Velimirovic, Banja Luka 1985. White has sacrificed a piece to drive the black king up the board. How did he now finish the game off with a checkmating combination?



Solution on page 38

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports sell their souls

From Mr M. Diddams

Sir, In his excellent article (December 11) on the farcical happenings at Paarl in the Boland v England XI game Alan Lee omitted to mention the most malign influences on sport today: sponsorship and television. In their greed for money most major sports have sold their souls and will have to dance to the tunes these pipers call.

I gloomily foresee the day when — as happened in Paarl, where a four-day match was cut short after three days and a one-day game was added — the formats and rules of sports will be changed to accommodate the needs of their new masters.

The desires and wishes of the paying spectator will figure very low, if at all, on the list of priorities; they are, after all, an inconvenience, requiring seating and facilities. The space they occupy could be much more profitably utilised with corporate and sponsors' hospitality suites and Joe Public should do what has been ordained for him: pay dearly to watch these sports on satellite sports channels, terrestrial channels being the poor cousins and only permitted to pick up the crumbs from the pay-channel table and show selected highlights at some God-forsaken hour of the night.

Yours faithfully,
M. DIDDAMS,
21 Vincent Road,
Sittingbourne, Kent.

Change of gloves

From Mr John Sheehan

Sir, Hasn't the time arrived for Alec Stewart to take over the gloves to allow Jack Russell to concentrate on his batting?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SHEEHAN,
9 Fonthill Terrace, Aberdeen.

Clubs' interests central to English rugby

From the Secretary of the Rugby Football Union

Sir, The RFU Commission has given much consideration to the roles of club and divisions in English rugby. The Commission would agree with Mr Steve Turner (Sports Letters, December 7) that there is a role for representative rugby between club and international level. The need for this divisional/area level is supported by the selectors, coaches and players.

The Commission has recommended that area representative sides are maintained and run centrally from Twickenham in conjunction with appointed area representatives. Their fixtures will be against national and provincial touring sides. Such fixtures are expected to increase in future seasons.

The Commission has, however, also recognised that, unlike the Southern Hemisphere, the English game is club based. It is the clubs that develop the players, it is the clubs that own the grounds. The Courage League structure now forms the bedrock of the game. The Pilkington Cup complements that structure and the planned move of our top clubs into Europe and into Anglo-Welsh competitions will broaden the experience.

The Commission believes that it is essential to continue to promote the club game for the benefit of both the clubs and English rugby in general. Further we believe that with the anticipated increase in area representative rugby there is in place a clear stepping-stone between club and country. Area teams will be run from Twickenham and we will ensure that the playing style will reflect the strategic aims of the England management and coaches.

The RFU Commission has looked forward and has proposed a format which respects the primacy of England and other England representative teams, but also reinforces the standing of the clubs — as well as making for a good marketing package that will help to fund the new "open" game.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. HALLETT,
Secretary,
Rugby Football Union,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

Home and away

From Mr S. Darken

Sir, In his report on the Benson and Hedges ice hockey cup final (December 4), in which Sheffield Steelers beat Nottingham Panthers 5-2 at Sheffield Arena, Norman de Mesquita wrote: "... while some will suggest that playing in front of their home crowd was a distinct advantage, it hardly affected the outcome."

In a league match 11 days earlier the Panthers beat the Steelers 5-2 at Nottingham Ice Stadium. Can you imagine the FA scheduling a Cup Final between Liverpool and Manchester United at Anfield?

Yours sincerely,
S. DARKEN,
3 Fern Crescent,
Eastwood,
Nottingham.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

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صورة من الاصل

Charlton intends to make new year resolution

By Peter Ball

ON THE way out of Anfield on Tuesday night, one senior Irish dignitary said sombrely: "It's the end of an era." Then he brightened: "But maybe we'll come back."

But will that be with or without Jack Charlton? Having seen Ireland's interest in the European championship finals next summer ended by Holland, the dignitary had no doubts: "Oh no, not with Jack. No question of that. This was the end of that road."

As a guide to thinking in the Football Association of Ireland hierarchy, that sounded conclusive, but others remain unconvinced. It remains to be seen whether the FAI would have the guts to sack the national manager should he decide he wants to stay on.

The point was made when Sean Connolly, chief executive of the FAI, insisted yesterday that the decision was still down to Charlton. "It is up to Jack whether he wants to go or stay," he said.

Yesterday, Charlton said: "I'm going to have a good Christmas, I'm going to hang around into the new year. I'm going to go to Spain for a holiday and then I'm going to see what the feelings are of everybody concerned when I come back, and then I'll make my decision. If I stay until January, it will be ten years since I took over, and that would be nice."

Much may depend on to whom he talks. On Wednesday night, Paul McGrath and Alan Kelly, the Ireland goalkeeper whose acrobatics had kept the score down to respectable proportions, both called for him to stay.

Yesterday morning, alongside their match reports, Ireland's leading newspapers published supplements looking back over "The Charlton Years". They read like an obituary but, like Mark Twain's death, reports of his departure may be premature.

So does Charlton want to stay on? People close to him know that he has been pondering that question for the past few months, and he is still pondering.

On balance, resignation still looks the most likely outcome, and the cleanest. It would ensure that he does not outstay his welcome but departs with his position in Irish folklore, let alone Irish football, untarnished by real failure or by growing discontent.

The warmth of the supporters' feelings was shown as they called for him after Wednesday's defeat to give him an ovation, but it felt more like a valediction and thanks for the glorious adventure of the past ten years than a desire to embark with him on another round.

There are also indications that he feels out of tune with developments in the modern game. "You see the game Holland and Portugal play, and it's not my type of football; you can't make tackles anymore," he said.

Whether he stays or goes, he knows that there is serious reconstruction to be done. "We've got a lot of work to do with the team, a lot of work," he reflected. "There are too many new people coming in, and too many old ones ready to go, and we've not replaced them with the right numbers in the right areas. At the moment, we are being caught between two or three different ways of playing, with different types of players coming in."

That may best be tackled by a new man. Saving the emergence of a sudden flush of young talent, or the discovery of a new group of players with Irish grandmothers, it may be a long job, and there is no guarantee of success.

But cussedness is one of Charlton's most enduring characteristics and he clearly does not want to leave as a loser. Suggestions that he is now 60, does not need the hassle and can retire to his shooting and fishing also need handling with caution.

Defeat by Holland was no disgrace. "The last time they beat us in the European championships, they went on to win it," Charlton reflected, and that possibility should not be discounted this time.

Charlton: still pondering

Wimbledon agree to Jones request

VINNIE JONES has been told he can leave Wimbledon. The combative midfield player, capped by Wales, heard that his request for a transfer had been granted by Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, and Sam Hammam, the managing director, who in the past has described Jones as "being like a son".

"I've had some great times with Wimbledon, they are part of my blood. But as with all things, times change," Jones, who has also played for Sheffield United, Leeds United and Chelsea, said. "You only get a short career in football and I know in my heart it's the best thing for me and my family to move on."

Jones's decision follows several weeks of discussion and speculation and comes little more than a month after the tenth dismissal of his career in Wimbledon's 4-1 defeat by Nottingham Forest.

Manchester City signed the Danish midfield player, Ronnie Ekelund, from Barcelona yesterday. Ekelund has gone to Maine Road on a two-month loan, City having the option to buy at a fee estimated at £500,000.

Ekelund, 23, played briefly under Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, while at Southampton last year, scoring five goals in 15 games. He left to undergo an operation on a troublesome back, which had played an important part in his failure to establish himself at Barcelona. However, Ball had no qualms about signing him.

"He is a great player, and he wants to show people he is fit and well after his back trouble," Ball said.

The move left Barry Fry, the Birmingham City manager, gnashing his teeth. Fry had agreed a similar transfer, only for the move to fall down because of Ekelund's demands. "I was hoping to sign him, but he messed me about so much wanting this and that, in the end I washed my hands of the deal after ten days," Fry said.

Blackburn have completed the £2.8 million signing of Chris Coleman from Crystal Palace, and immediately named the 25-year-old Wales international in the squad for Saturday's home match against Middlesbrough. Coleman passed the routine medical after agreeing a contract which ties him to Ewood Park until the summer of 1999.

"To be given the chance to join the champions is a dream and you only have to look around the place and see the quality within the squad to realise what a big club this is," Coleman said.

CHARLES KRUPA

Ernie Els, left, who was one over par after the first four, discusses prospects at Tryall with Fred Couples

Wild-swing Daly strikes trouble

From Andrew Longmore in Tryall, Jamaica

IF THE brisk welcome accorded John Daly yesterday at the opening ceremony of the Johnnie Walker world championship was any indication, old wounds have yet to be healed in a land which prides itself on its sense of fair play. Amid the pageantry, mutual name-checking and back-patting, which is the standard fare of such golf occasions, Daly received the most cursory of curtain-calls.

"John Daly of the USA," said all that needed to be said. But as the only one of the four major winners who had deigned to appear for the world championship, his achievement at St Andrews on that extraordinary day in high summer surely deserved a mention, if only to heighten the status of an event still in search of a ready identity. Nor did it suggest that the world of golf has come any closer to fitting the American's square frame happily into a round hole. Non-conformity is not encouraged in the ordered world of professional golf.

Perhaps no one can truly believe that a reformed alcoholic with an urge for self-destruction could be the Open champion or maybe this was a deliberate snub to Daly, whose preparation for this championship involved a maximum of 20 minutes on the practice range and a few desultory swings of the putter. Daly was the last of the 20 players to arrive, reviving memories of his less-than-auspicious debut in the event four years ago, by flying in barely a day before he was due on the first tee of the demanding Tryall course.

As Alex Cejka, his playing partner, was warming up on the practice ground an hour before tee-off time yesterday morning, Daly had still not hit a ball in anger since a well publicised disqualification here in 1991 confirmed his growing reputation as the "wild thing" of marketing dream and tabloid legend.

Then, Daly, the newly-crowned USPGA champion, shot a 77 in his first round to be joint last at the end of the opening day, signed a wrong card after his second round and disappeared in a haze of bad grace and accusation. The American, it was believed, had disqualified himself on purpose and his parting complaint that he could not find a McDonald's hardly endeared him to the local people or wider golfing community, who demand high standards from their champions.

If Daly was tempted back by the fact that the first McDonald's restaurant in Jamaica opened at Ironshore, Montego Bay, last month, he did not leave himself much time to arrange a pre-tournament cheeseburger and chips.

Daly, though, has never been much of a follower of fashion. For all his success in the most traditional surroundings of last summer, his results through the year have suggested that the renewal of John Daly may have extended to a more stable personal life, but not yet to the way he does business. He has missed nine cuts out of 30 tournaments this year and been in the top ten just three times, including the Open, three of those missed cuts coming in the four tournaments prior to St Andrews. In the other three majors, he finished 45th equal at the Masters and the US Open and missed the cut in the USPGA.

At least, his reception on the first tee yesterday included a few of the tradtional "way to go, John" whoops and hollers. Somebody was pleased to see him. Unfortunately, the way John went off the first tee only betrayed his gross lack of preparation. Uncharacteristically trying to favour caution on the longest par four on the course, he took an iron, but still found heavy rough 30 yards to the left of the fairway.

His hack out landed in the deep ravine which protects the front of the green, his third hit more rock than ball, stung his hand and went nowhere, the fourth was a penalty stroke as he dropped out, the fifth was a pitch to the fringe of the green, the sixth a fluffed chip. Two more putts made an eight, which so confused the scoreboard carrier, he resolutely carried "Daly — par" down the following hole.

Three more dropped strokes in the following three holes left the American's round in tatters as the Australian, Wayne Riley, chipped in at the first for a birdie and went two under at the fourth to establish an early lead. Daly was eight over par after the first nine and was left with a long and lonely haul towards respectability.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Districts get approval to represent Scotland

THE Scottish Rugby Football Union (SRFU) yesterday confirmed that the country's participation in the European Cup next season will be on a district rather than a club basis. The SRFU committee gave four reasons for their decision: district representation will spread the financial benefits; it will provide a fairer structure for all Scotland's leading clubs; it will encourage leading players to remain north of the border; and it will provide an additional stepping-stone between club and international level.

Bill Hogg, the SRFU chief executive, said: "The decision was taken in the national interest, rather than in the narrow self-interest of a few clubs. We have consulted widely and the committee's proposals are sensible, fair and equitable. Difficult decisions are now behind us and we must now unite as a union to implement those decisions for the widest possible benefit."

Prean included

Table tennis: Carl Prean was yesterday nominated for one of the two British places for automatic inclusion in the Olympic Games next year, despite the fact that he is refusing to play for England in protest at the presence of Chen Xinhua, the former World Cup-winner, who is originally from China (Richard Eaton writes). Chen, who is based in Yorkshire and who will be 36 when the Games start, is the other British choice, which means the two will be teammates again and may even have to share accommodation in Atlanta.

Goulding ban

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, was yesterday suspended for three matches and fined £200 after being found guilty at a Rugby Football League disciplinary hearing of a deliberate high tackle on John Fieldhouse, of Halifax.

Germany calling

Motor racing: There will two grands prix in Germany next season, with the European Grand Prix being run at the Nürburgring in April and the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim in July.

GRAND PRIX DATES: March 10: Australian (Melbourne); March 31: Brazilian (Interlagos); April 7: Argentine (Buenos Aires), April 28: European (Nürburgring, Germany); May 5: San Marino (Imola), May 19: Spanish (Barcelona); June 2: Monaco (Monte Carlo); June 16: Canadian (Montreal), June 30: French (Magny Cours), July 14: British (Silverstone), July 28: German (Hockenheim), Aug 11: Hungarian (Budapest); Aug 25: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps), Sept 8: Italian (Monza), Sept 22: Portuguese (Estoril); Oct 13: Japanese (Suzuka)

Towering ambition unites two Blackpool clubs

Non-League Football
By Walter Gammie

BLACKPOOL Mechanics, the lowly North West Counties League second division side, announced this week that they are to hitch their star to the Blackpool Gladiators rugby league team trying to gain a place in the new Super League.

If the Gladiators persuade the rugby league administrators of their case at a meeting next month, the clubs hope to move swiftly towards establishing a £2.8 million, 10,000 capacity stadium in the Marton area of the town. The site would embrace an indoor sports hall and an all-weather training area.

For a club that relies on players who pay a £2 weekly subscription to play for them, the prospect of using such facilities has opened visions of clambering up the non-League ladder to dizzy heights. David Baldwin, the club chairman, knows the new stadium is crucial to generate the income needed to sustain these ambitions.

"We need a multi-sports facility to attract European Community grants and lottery money," Baldwin said. "People say that Blackpool FC are developing a new stadium and ask whether we need two in the town. I know there are eight or nine divisions of 15 teams each in Sunday football and between 250 and 300 teams in this area. Most of them train in church halls or some muddy corner somewhere. The need is there." As for the rugby league element, Baldwin said: "It's becoming a summer sport and we get 18 million people here each summer."

Another club hoping to move is Dudley Town, of the midland division of the Beazer Homes League. There are plans to sell the Round Oak Stadium in Brierley Hill and develop a new site, the Dell Stadium, with the help of the local authority.

Not having a new ground to move to immediately, can be disastrous. Poole Town, forced to leave the Dolphin Stadium last year, have been sharing with Hamworthy United. Without a social club, they have had no money to pay players and sit at the foot of the Beazer southern division after 17 straight defeats.

A petition, containing 2,500 signatures, helped to persuade a leisure committee meeting this week to order officers of Poole council to make strenuous efforts to find the club a new site and offer it sponsorship. "People have shown they are not prepared to allow the club to roll over and die." Clive Robbins, the chairman, said.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 111 Philadelphia 100; LA Lakers 101 Detroit 98; Chicago 112 Orlando 103; Seattle 88 San Antonio 83; Houston 100 Vancouver 89.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thames Valley Tigers 90 Leopards 92.

BIATHLON

HOLMENKOLLEN, Norway: World Cup: Men (20km): 1, S Fischer (Ger) 53min 42.8sec (1 pen), 2, M Loefgren (Swe) 54:17.4 (1), 3, V Dratchev (Russ) 54:49.3 (3), 4, V Maigurov (Russ) 55:24.2 (2); 5, F Luck (Ger) 55:29.4 (1); 6, W Pallhuber (It) 55:33.2 (1). Women (15km): 1, M Wallin (Swe) 49:24.8 (2); 2, P Behle (Ger) 49:45.0 (2); 3, S Mihokova (Slovakia) 50:13.4 (2); 4, U Disl (Ger) 50:35.5 (3); 5, E Claret (Fr) 51:04.0 (4); 6, M Zellner (Ger) 51:24.8 (1). World Cup standings: 1, Disl 72pts; 2, S Paramigina (Belo) 66; 3, Wallin 64.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four): Melbourne: Victoria 430-8 dec (M Elliott 203, G Vimpani 71) v Tasmania 171-1 (D Hills 54, J Cox 75 not out).

CURLING

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland: European championships: Men: Group A1: Scotland 8 Finland 2; Austria 6 Holland 5; Norway 9 Germany 4. Placings: Norway 5 wins, Scotland 4, Germany 3, Austria 2, Finland 1, Holland 0. Group A2: England 5 Sweden 4; Italy 6 Wales 1, Switzerland 7 Denmark 6. Placings: Italy 4, Switzerland 4, England 3, Sweden, Denmark 2, Wales 0. Women: Group A1: Austria 7 Denmark 5; Czech Republic 12 Luxembourg 3; Sweden 12 Switzerland 4. Placings: Sweden 5, Switzerland 4, Austria 3, Denmark 2, Czech Republic 1, Luxembourg 0. Group A2: Scotland 8 Norway 7; England 8 France 7. Germany 10 Finland 3. Placings: Scotland 5, Germany 4, Norway 3, Finland 2, England 1, France 0.

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: International Championships: Christmas Candle Stakes: 1, Cash (H Simon, Austria) 48.26secs; 2, Everest Magic Carpet (M Whitaker, GB) 50.09; 3, Everest Sublime (N Skelton, GB) 51.32. Father Christmas Stakes: 1, Everest My Messieur (M Whitaker, GB) 37.94; 2, Monterrey (J Fisher, GB) 38.52; 3, Elegast (C Martinez de Irujo, Sp) 39.62.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off match Ireland 0 Holland 2 (at Anfield).

ANGLO-ITALIAN CUP: Group A: Birmingham 3 Cesena 1; Genoa 0 Oldham 0; Luton 5 Ancona 0; Perugia 3 Port Vale 5 Group B: Brescia 0 West Bromwich Albion 1; Ipswich 2 Salernitana 0; Southend 1 Foggia 2. Postponed: Reggiana v Stoke.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberdeen 4 Kilmarnock 1.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley 1 Barrow 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Newport AFC v Atherstone. Southern division: Fareham 5 Poole 0.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow 2 Purfleet 2. Carlton Cup: Second round: Bognor Regis 6 Worthing 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry 1 Afan Lido 1.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Ettingshall Heath 1 Lye 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon 2 Southampton 0; Charlton 1 Tottenham 2. Second division: Swansea 3 Cheltenham 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bolton 1 Notts County 2; Leeds 1 Liverpool 2; Nottingham Forest 5 Tranmere 0. Second division: Hull 0 Burnley 2; Middlesbrough 2 Grimsby 1; Sunderland 0 Huddersfield 1; York 1 Barnsley 1. Third division: Scarborough 0 Bury 3. Scunthorpe 0 Lincoln 2; Stockport County 2 Darlington 0; Walsall 1 Chester 0, Wrexham 2 Shrewsbury 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett 5 Eppleton 0; Seaham Red Star 0 Durham 3

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Postponed: Sudbury v Halstead.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Downton v Christchurch.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Brigg 3 Pickering 1; Harrogate 1 North Ferriby 4, Stocksbridge 5 Hall Road Rangers 1; Hallam and Selby 0 Ossett Albion 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Norwich 2 Peterborough 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19: Warwickshire 0 Shropshire 1. Fuji Films Trophy: Brierley Hill and Dudley 1 Wirral 2.

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: AC Milan 1 Bologna 1 (agg 2-2, Bologna win 7-6 on pens); Palermo 1 Fiorentina 2 (Fiorentina win 3-1 on agg).

SPANISH CUP: Third round, second leg: Celta Vigo 2 Andorra 0 (Celta Vigo win 7-0 on agg); Racing Santander 0 Numancia 1 (Numancia win 1-0 on agg). Valladolid 1 Compostela 1 (Compostela win 2-1 on agg); Sporting Gijon 5 Ecija 0 (Sporting Gijon win 5-2 on agg) Rayo Vallecano 0 Hercules 1 (Hercules win 2-1 on agg); Merida 4 Atletico Madrid 4 (Atletico Madrid win 8-5 on agg); Español 5 Leganes 1 (Español win 6-1 on agg); Tenerife 8 Levante 1 (Tenerife win 6-2 on agg)

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Championship final, first leg: Botafogo 2 Santos 1.

FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship

Warrington v Castleford (7.30)

YOUTH INTERNATIONAL: BARLA Young Lions v Australia (at Naughton Park, Widnes, 7.30).

STUDENT INTERNATIONAL: Scotland v France (Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh, 7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Club matches

Bath v Exeter (7.15)

Bristol v Clifton (7.30)

Coventry v Gloucester (7.30)

Rugby v Nottingham (7.30)

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Drogheda (7.45); Cork v Shamrock (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v Athlone (7.45).

SCHOOLS MATCH: Essex under-16 Trophy: Semi-final: St Bonaventure v Barking Abbey (at McMillan Stadium, 4.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: London v Manchester (8.0).

EQUESTRIANISM: Show jumping championships (Olympia).

SWIMMING: Uncle Ben's Winter Challenge (Ponds Forge, Sheffield).

FREESTYLE SKIING

LA PLAGNE, France: World Cup: Ballet: Men: 1, H Baumgartner (Switz) 25.85pts; 2, I Edmonson (US) 25.75, 3, A Inberg (Fin) 24.25; 4, K Hilpert (Switz) 22.40; 5, J Moseley (US) 19.20; 6, S Roxberg (US) 19.20. World Cup standings: 1, Baumgartner 200; 2, Edmondson 192; 3, Roxberg 168. Women: 1, Y Batalova (Russ) 28.45; 2, C Fechoz (Fr) 26.55, 3, E Rezumovska (Russ) 25.90; 4, A Johansson (Swe) 24.05. 5, R Gutierrez (Sp) 23.65; 6, A Magnusson (Swe) 23.15. World Cup standings: 1, Batalova 200; 2, Fechoz 192; 3, Johansson 180.

GOLF

COOLUM, Australia: Coolum Classic: First-round scores (Australia unless stated): 67: S Appleby, A Gilligan. 68: J Senior, G Dodd, G Chalmers, M Long (NZ). 69: S Robinson, R Stephens

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Tampa Bay 3 Hartford 2; Buffalo 4 Colorado 3; Detroit 3 Chicago 1, NY Rangers 4 Boston 2, Calgary 8 Dallas 4; Vancouver 2 Edmonton 2 (OT); Los Angeles 6 Ottawa 2; Anaheim 6 Pittsburgh 3

MILTON KEYNES: Olympic qualifying group A: Great Britain 1 Denmark 1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens 32 Oldham 22; Wigan 32 Halifax 18. First division: Batley 18 Widnes 22; Rochdale 16 Wakefield 30. Second division: Chorley 16 Swinton 18; Highfield 14 Hull K R 54; Leigh 42 Doncaster 16, York 24 Bramley 12.

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN CUP: Pool B: Ulster 16 Bègles-Bordeaux 29

CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Midlands final: East Midlands 12 North Midlands 12.

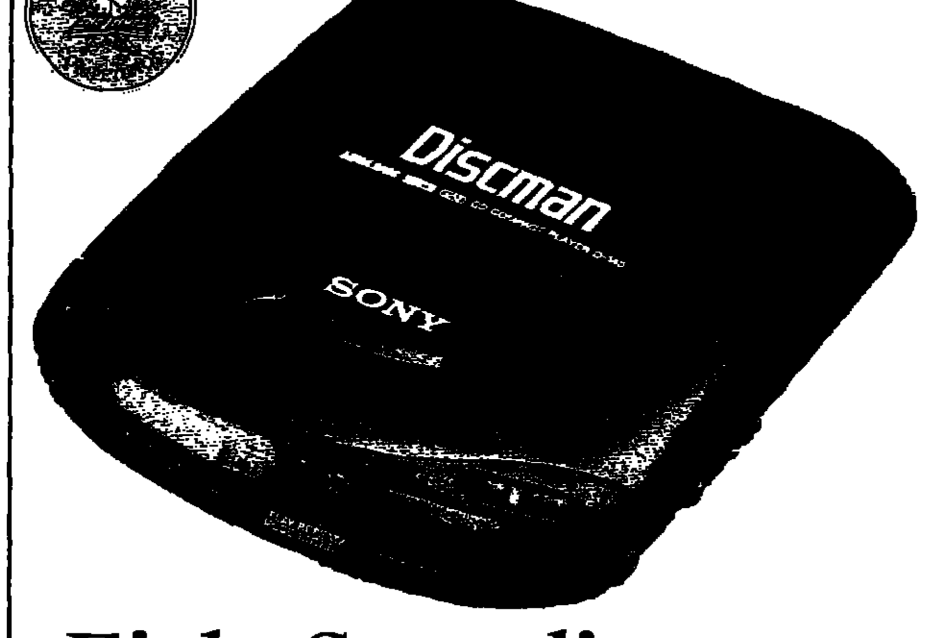
SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow 17 Scottish Exiles 20; South of Scotland 17 North and Midlands 19.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: RAF 35 Civil Service 16, Army 24 New Zealand Army 22.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: RGS High Wycombe 0 Lord Wandsworth College 0; Tiffin 14 Colfe's 10. County championship: Kent 32 Hertfordshire 12. Other matches: KCS Wimbledon 5 City of London Freemen 7; Silcoates 10 Rishworth 10

NORDIC SKIING

BRUSSON, Italy: World Cup: 15km freestyle: Men: 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 36min 06.2sec; 2, S Fauner (It) 36:40.8; 3, V Smirnov (Russ) 37:05.4, 4, T Mogren (Swe) 37:20.2; 5, T Alsgaard (Nor) 37:24.2. World Cup positions (after four races): 1, Daehlie 380pts; 2, Smirnov 266; 3, Fauner 240; 4, A Prokurorov (Russ) 172; 5, T Alsgaard (Nor) 138. Women: 1, E Vaelbe (Russ) 41min 47.8sec; 2, L Yegorova (Russ) 41:48.2; 3, N Gavrilyuk (Russ) 42:05.5; 4, S Belmondo (It) 42:06.4; 5, K Shigum (Est) 42:09.4. World Cup positions: 1, Vaelbe 420pts; 2, Yegorova 410, 3, Gavrilyuk 245; 4, N Neumanova (Russ) 228; 5, L Lazutina (Russ) 217.



THE TIMES TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

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Whitaker denied double by veteran Austrian

By Jenny MacArthur

MICHAEL WHITAKER made a rousing start to the Olympia show jumping championships yesterday when he and Everest Messieur won the Father Christmas Stakes with a devastating round against the clock. Earlier Whitaker, the world No 2, had taken second place in the Christmas Candle Stakes on Everest Magic Carpet, a last-minute substitute for the injured Two Step.

Whitaker has lost count of the number of wins My Messieur, aged 17, has brought him, but puts it at around 80. "He's been a real handy horse," Whitaker said. "The problem is trying to find another like him."

While several riders, including the two leading Germans, Ludger Beerbaum and Franke Sloothaak, used the class as a schooling round for the bigger events to come, Whitaker attacked from the start.

The Spaniard, Cayetano Martinez de Irujo, took the early lead on Elegast, but Whitaker, who has such an understanding with My Messieur that he barely has to take a pull, cut nearly two seconds off that time, finishing in 37.94sec. James Fisher, on Monterrey, made a bold attempt to catch him but had to settle for second place.

In the earlier Christmas Candle Stakes, Whitaker was relegated to second place by Hugo Simon, of Austria, who is competing in England for the first time for ten years. Having received a last-minute invitation, Simon, 53, wasted little time in making his mark on the home-bred Cash, an eight-year-old stallion out of his former top horse, Landgrafin.

Whitaker had taken the lead on Magic Carpet, another eight-year-old, before Simon, who hopes to ride in his seventh Olympic Games in Atlanta, put Whitaker's time in perspective with a beautifully-judged round, finishing nearly two seconds faster.

Results, page 37

Graham Duffil meets a woman on the brink of skiing greatness

Street wise to thrill of the chase

Street, who has won six consecutive World Cup downhill events, celebrates her victory in Cortina, Italy

Picabo Street will enter the downhill skiing event at St Anton, Austria, today with her sights set on Anne-marie Moser-Proell's record of eleven consecutive World Cup wins. She is already the women's equivalent of Alberto Tomba; if she continues skiing the way she has for the past 12 months she could turn out to be as successful as the celebrated Austrian whose record she covets.

Street, 24, has all the attributes to reach such lofty heights. Her name — pronounced peek-a-boo — sticks in the memory with all its apparent silliness, she has a charming manner and gives the impression of being on a mission to bring happiness to the world.

She sheds tears when rival skiers fall and has said she wants to set up children's ski schools when she retires. In fact, everything you hear about Street in advance of meeting her makes you fear she is a product of American marketing at its most crass.

Within a few minutes, however, it becomes clear that her personality is as genuine as the talent that has won her six consecutive downhill events.

She was brought up in Sun Valley, Idaho, where her father, Ron, went for the skiing and, in the process, made a living as a stonemason. "He wears his hair in a pony-tail, he has a beard because he hates shaving," Street said. For this, and the fact that they named their son Baba and their daughter Picabo (after a local village, when, at the age of three, a name had still not been chosen for her), the Streets have been referred to as hippies.

"That implies somebody grungy and dirty. My father showers twice a day and so does my mother," Street said with a touch of anger in her voice. "I was never left with a babysitter or anybody else when I was young.

"We have a rock quarry and my mother mixed the mud for Dad and I carried the stones — that made me strong. We were middle class to poor. I took every last bit of money we had to do my ski racing and that's a lot of the reason I think I am as good as I am. I knew how much I was taking away from the family to do this. I knew I had to give it my best and be as good as I could be."

Now she has bought the family a new home in Portland, Oregon, set in an acre of land. Her father is able to take time off work and leave her brother to run the rock quarry business. "It's like I finally got to give back what they gave to me," Street said.

The nearest skiing is an hour away on Mount Hood but, as the United States' best woman downhill skier and one of the country's most prominent athletes, she decided she had to leave Sun Valley, where two streets had already been named "Picabo" after her. "I needed somewhere quiet to relax away from skiing and didn't have so much privacy there," she said.

After winning every race last season except at Vail, Colorado, where she fell, she began this season where she left off by winning in Lake Louise, Canada. "That race was really hard — I wanted to win again this year and it was a challenge for me," she said.

Women's skiing is finally emerging from the shadow cast two seasons ago by the death of Ulrike Maier. "Over the last few years we had been moving at a fast pace to increase our speed, the difficulty of our courses. Maybe it [the death of Maier] was a sign to slow down a little bit. We try to emulate the men's style because they ski powerfully and cleanly but I don't think there is a woman who wants to race Kitzbühel or Wengen," she said.

Street finished second in the practice session yesterday with a time of 1min 38.90sec. Wins in the two events at St Anton today, over a sprint distance, and tomorrow, on the full downhill course, would take her tally to eight victories in succession. "I'd love to break the record but the possibilty of me not winning is really high. All kind of elements could come into play," she explained. "I could pick the wrong start number or a cloud could come over just as I'm about to start, but I'll tell you this — if I have a good first run I'm going to hammer the second."

Lam leads Samoans to survival against the odds

John Hopkins meets a charismatic captain committed to keeping an island with the population of Swindon in world rugby's first division

Though looks can be deceptive, in the case of Pat Lam, the engaging and charismatic captain of the Western Samoans, they are not. A smile flickers around the edge of his mouth, his eyes are attentive and fix questioners with a firmness that approaches the unnerving.

The impression given by this man, whose hands are neatly clasped together in front of him when he sits with his back ramrod straight, is of a man at one with himself and his world. In Lam's case, they are accurate barometers of his personality, presence and popularity.

The team's training for tomorrow's match against England at Twickenham was over and Lam, still in stockinged feet, was sitting at a table at Richmond Athletic Ground talking about Western Samoan rugby. On two counts, few are better qualified to do so than the No 8. Lam, 27, leads on the field by dint of his driving play and his thoughtful captaincy.

The five defeats and one draw in the 11 matches played on the five-week tour of England and Scotland matter less than the result in tomorrow's international. "Winning a 'Test' is a priority," Lam said with the memory of the 15-15 draw against Scotland last month, a game the Samoans were unlucky not to win, uppermost in his mind.

But Lam is as much a leader off the field and talks with messianic fervour of how Western Samoa can sustain their position as one of the world's leading rugby union nations — quarter-finalists in the 1991 and 1995 World Cups — despite the loss of ten players to rugby league and to other rugby-playing nations since the World Cup last summer.

It is hard to believe the handicap facing the Western Samoans, a country with a population the size of Swindon. It has fewer than 5,000 players from which to choose and the drain of players is greater than from any other rugby-playing country. Even on this tour, some have heard siren voices.

"A couple of the lads have been approached and they have come to me and spoken about it," Lam said. "I say to them that, ultimately, it is their decision but they shouldn't just look at the dollars and cents.

"If it is rugby union clubs that are interested in them, perhaps they should go because they could still be available for us. But, if they go to league, they have gone for ever."

Lam knows of what he speaks. He, too, could have played elsewhere but chose not to. "I was born in New Zealand and all the incentives were there to make me try and become an All Black," he said. "But I did not try. Why? Because I believe in my country. I believe I am helping a cause. I am a teacher. I teach the boys what I can."

Thanks to a recent financial arrangement initiated by Bryan Williams, the former All Black wing who describes himself as "three-eighths Samoan" and is coach to the national team, money is now being made available for Western Samoan rugby. Furthermore, the country is being included in a pan-Pacific tournament, which should make up for its exclusion from the lucrative Super-12 competition involving teams from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

It all bears out the quiet determination shown by Williams since he first became involved with the Western Samoans prior to the 1991 World Cup. "We are very, very determined to survive," he said. "There is a lot of talent coming through and they cannot all play for the All Blacks. We are not throwing in the towel. We are going to box on.

"Even on this tour, deals are being done," Lam said. "New initiatives are being made all the time. Everything is being improved." He spoke with charm and grace, but only time will tell if he is right.

Tomorrow's game is Western Samoan's first against England at Twickenham. The islanders from the South Seas have contributed so much to the contemporary game that one hopes it will not be their last.

Lam and his players are warming to the task of taking on England tomorrow. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

VH-1 is available on cable and satellite.

Dear Diary,
Family are still here. It's like getting yeast extract off a blanket getting rid of them. However we all sat down to watch Elton John at 6.00pm on VH-1 singing 'Crocodile Rock' – which reminded me of when I was in Borneo, wrestling a gang of vicious crocodiles, who had leapt on me in a weak moment. They were handbags within seconds. I'm carrying one now.

VH-1
Where music means something.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	20	80	good	varied	fair	fine	-4	10/12
(Generally good skiing on all open runs)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	15	60	good	powder	fair	snow	-5	14/12
(More lifts opening this weekend, excellent prospects)								
Lech	40	55	good	powder	fair	cloud	0	14/12
(Good early season skiing, 20 lifts open)								
Obergurgl	50	55	good	powder	fair	snow	-7	14/12
(Over 30cm of fresh snow, conditions much improved)								
FRANCE								
Tignes	20	100	good	varied	art	cloud	-8	14/12
(Very cold skiing but more new snow; snow forecast)								
Val d'Isère	15	100	fair	varied	art	cloud	-4	14/12
(Conditions improving slowly with new snow, more needed)								
ITALY								
Cortina	25	50	good	powder	closed	snow	-4	14/12
(Heavy snowfalls improving conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Grindelwald	5	40	fair	powder	closed	cloud	0	14/12
(Some fresh snow at all altitudes)								
Wengen	5	30	fair	powder	closed	cloud	-4	14/12
(Fresh snow softening open pistes, 9/23 lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *36*

OCCITAN

(c) Old Provençal, the *langue d'Oc*. "In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, Occitan — or Provençal, as it is more usually known — was one of the major European literary languages."

RUBIK

(c) Rubik's cube was a cult puzzle of the 1980s. It consisted of a cube seemingly formed by 27 smaller cubes, uniform in size but of various colours, each layer of nine or eight smaller cubes being capable of rotation in its own plane: the task is to restore each face of the main cube to a single colour after the uniformity has been destroyed by rotation of the various layers. Knitting is more creative. An eponym of E. Rubik, a Hungarian teacher, who patented the puzzle in Hungary in 1975. "Rubik's cube is the latest game/puzzle aimed at driving both parents and children to madness."

PIKER

(b) A cautious or timid gambler who makes only small bets: a person who takes no chances: a poor sport or poor thing: a shirker: a lounger. US slang. Robert Service, *Rhymes of Rolling Stone*, 1912: "It's the plugging way that will win you the day, / So don't be a piker, old pard."

PYUPUMHA

(c) In full, *pupunha palm*. A South American palm tree, *Bactris* (or *Guilielma*) *gasipaes*, which has a spiny stem and yields edible red or yellow fruit about two inches long. "His children are eating the agreeable red and yellow fruit of the pupunha or peach palm."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxh4+! Kxh4 2 Rh7+ Kg5 3 h4 mate.

Cup of Paris perfume

Those Café Days. *Radio 4, 8.50pm.*

Lucky old Simon Parkes. He has landed himself a reporter's job that, for sheer pleasure, cannot be far behind those top-of-the-leaguers, the travel writers and restaurant guides. He is doing the rounds of European cafés, and he begins — where better? — in the capital city that gives customers the authentic "perfume de Paris". But of course coffee has never been the only beverage sold in these establishments which have long been home-from-home for artists, artistes, philosophers, writers, the lonely and the lovers. Parkes discovers one Paris café where it is still possible to order a small cup of hot chocolate at 3.15pm and make it last until the lights are turned off at 9.50pm. Next week, it is the cafés of Vienna.

Turns of the Century. *Radio 3, 4.20pm.*

Often impersonated, never equalled, Robb Wilton was the funny fellow whose Home Guard monologue beginning "The day war broke out" has put him among the immortals of British comedy. I only wish Peter Nichols's tribute to him had been able to include a reminder of Wilton's befuddled JP, Mr Muddlecombe, or his disastrously dilatory fire station chief (Max Wall's impression is only an *hors d'oeuvre*, not an *entrée*). Nichols accurately categorises Robb Wilton as one of those men who never grew up — like a baby at an everlasting breast. I would say he was a master monologist who turned incompetence into something sublime. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, including at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; at **6.15** The Net and at **6.30** The Mix **7.00** The Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel. Elastica and Bandulu in session **1.00am** Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Today's the Day **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Whisky Galore! (1/8) **9.00** Listen to the Band. Yorkshire Building Society Band **10.00** John Florance with the Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Campbell Burnap **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme **8.35** The Magazine, incl Euronews and at **11.00** News; Chain Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** sport **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **9.05** American Graffiti **9.35** Stop Press **10.05** Entertainment Superhighway **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** World News **7.15** *Middlemarch* **7.30** Heritage **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News in German **9.15** Faith **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** *Middlemarch* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** News in German **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Heritage **11.45** The Farming World **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Seven Days **1.30** Jazz **1.45** Good Books **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** World News **3.15** Sport **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Jazz Now and Then **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Concert (r) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Thomas (Overture, Raymond); Schubert (Mass in E flat); Frye (Salve virgo); Alkan (Concerto da camera in A minor); **8.04** *Purcell Portfolio*: a selection of songs; **8.32** *Symphony Series*: Mozart (Symphony in D, K320)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Sibelius (Suite, Belshazzar's Feast: Gothenburg SO under Neeme Jarvi); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G); Tchaikovsky (Capriccio Italien)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. *Artist of the Week*: Stephen Cleobury, conductor. Byrd (Laudate pueri a 6); Purcell (Suite No 8 in F); Chopin (Fantaisie-Impromptu in C sharp minor); Britten (Rejoice in the Lamb); Prokofiev (Symphony No 7); **11.05** Bach (Prelude and Fugue in C); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 9 in E flat)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Copland (Orchestral Variations; Nonet for strings; Proclamation)

1.00pm Bristol Lunchtime Concert. Bartók Plus. Bartók (Contrasts for violin, clarinet and piano); Kodály (Intermezzo for string trio); Dohnányi (Sextet). Presented by Chris de Souza

2.00 Fairest Isle: Songs from West and North. Songs, with and without words, by Gustav Holst

3.00 Mining the Archive. Susan Sharpe talks to the soprano Dame Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, and introduces a 1968 recital of lieder by Wolf, Schubert and Strauss

4.20 Turns of the Century. See Choice

4.30 By the Sacred River Jumna. The classical style of the north Indian Dhrupad features the pakhavaj drum and the rudra vina (r)

5.00 The Music Machine in Chicago. Tommy Pearson visits Kingston Mines, the home of Chicago Blues

5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Including Schubert (Impromptu in F minor); **6.03** Barber (Nocturne, Four Songs); **6.30** Dvořák (Romance in F minor for violin and orchestra)

7.30 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in France: Evelyn Glennie, percussion. Jerzy Maksymiuk conducts Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); MacMillan (Veni, veni Emmanuel); Sibelius (Symphony No 2). Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville

9.15 Cinema 100: Lumière's Children. Christopher Cook looks at special effects

9.40 Britannia at the Opera. Opera Restor'd under Peter Holman performs *Pyramus and Thisbe*, John Frederick Lampe's "mock opera" of 1745. With Mark Padmore and Susan Bisatt in the title roles, Michael Sanderson, Arwel Treharne, Andrew Knight and Peter Milne

10.40-1.00am Hear and Now, with Robert Ziegler. Austrian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hans Zender performs Giacinto Scelsi (Konx-om-pax; Hurqualia); also Chris Burn's *Henry Cowell in Music and Words*; and works by Ian Willcock and Takis Velliantis

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather

9.00-10.00, 10.30-3.00 Test Match Special (LW only). South Africa v England in the third Test

9.00 News (FM only) **9.05 Desert Island Discs** (FM only). With the writer Nigel Nicolson (r)

9.45 Letters from Ireland (FM only). John Gray writes from Linenhall Library in Belfast

10.00-10.30 News; Print the Legend (FM only): Revolution. Professor Christopher Frayling examines the way history has been portrayed on the big screen. Directors Gillo Pontecorvo and Ken Loach explain why they have made films that are truly political (5/6)

10.00 News; An Act of Worship (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

NB: The following are on FM only until 3pm.

10.30 Woman's Hour reports from Leeds, Britain's fastest growing financial centre

11.30 The Natural History Programme. Joanna Pinnock investigates seabird and marine life in and around the Falkland Islands

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm The Food Programme. Richard Ehrlich presents a guide to cookbooks, beginning with a selection from Italy **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One (FM, LW)

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Classic Serial. Barnaby Rudge, by Charles Dickens (2/3) (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews *Beat Culture* at the Whitney Museum in New York

4.45 Short Story: Parang, by Merle Collins. Read by Vivienne Rochester

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Pick of the Week, with Christopher Serle

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a discussion in Macclesfield. With Paul Boateng, MP; Professor Julian Le Grand of the London School of Economics; Tessa Keswick, Director of the Centre for Policy Studies; and Tim Eggar, MP, Trade and Industry Minister

8.50 Those Café Days. See Choice

9.15 Letter from America

9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: The fickleness of popularity and fashion (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between (5/10)

11.00 Week Ending. News satire

11.25 Fourth Column

11.45 Powerful Substances (2/2)

12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Sucking Sherbert Lemons, by Michael Carson. The final part

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Sympathy, if reluctant, for the bedevilled

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

Ever since BBC1's *Do the Right Thing* exposed the kind of amoral society we live in, I've been a bit wary of moral pronouncements. That astonishing series every week produced more gloomy news about the nation's moral grasp. "Well! Eighty per cent say Raskolnikov is right to kill the old lady!" Terry Wogan would say. "Should the Samaritan walk by on the other side? Seventy-five per cent say a skateboard would be quicker."

Well, I wouldn't want to be in Janet Daley's shoes, that's all. The moral maze is something most people don't bother with: they hire a bulldozer and knock it down. Yet the film-makers and broadcasters continue to use the moral universe as a backdrop to their work, which is touchingly old-fashioned of them. As I mentioned last week, Thursday night's larky drama series *Ghostbusters of East Finchley* (BBC2) actually dares to suggest that paying taxes has something to do with social responsibility. *Doctors in the Dock* (BBC2) turns on a delicate issue of medical ethics; and so on. I don't know why they bother; but I'm glad they do.

Pride of place last night went to Channel 4's fascinating **Secret Lives**, which this week did its darnedest to uncover material on Howard Hughes — the human Andrex puppy of Las Vegas. The point about Hughes was that he was evil, corrupt, paranoid and megalomaniac, but at the same time pitiful. So, perverse as always, *Secret Lives* left you feeling sorry for a monster who bribed governments; while despising an old man in shorts and toggle (Baden-Powell, last week) who gave the world nothing more dangerous than dib-dib-dib.

Despite the paranoid seclusion, Hughes still influenced politics; still achieved tax avoidance undreamt of in East Finchley. His old bodyguards and surveillance men now came forward to speak, but their first-hand contributions were overshadowed by a wizened Austrian psychoanalyst — probably a woman, though it was hard to tell — who pronounced on Hughes without ever having met him. "He vants attention, bot he iss avraid of beink looked at." "He loves vimen, bot he hass hatred und envy; zo he vishes to enzlave and destroy." Hughes used to insist that his young female protégées avoid the level crossing on Santa Monica Boulevard, because bouncing on rail tracks was bad for their breasts. For once, the shrink had nothing to add.

The case of Nigel Cox on **Doctors in the Dock** (BBC2) was rather more subtle. In 1991, he administered a lethal injection to a woman dying in great pain from rheumatoid arthritis. Subsequently, he was found guilty of attempted murder, but not struck off. Now he sat in a chair before a fire and told his side of the story. In appallingly difficult circumstances, and with every humane intention, he had deliberately administered potassium chloride, to help the woman to die.

The question was not a moral one here; it was legal. The law may be wrong, but Dr Cox broke it. Yet he and his wife were genuinely shocked when a tearful jury found him guilty. It is odd when intelligent people can't get their heads around something as simple as this. With hindsight, Dr Cox objected: "The reason I got into trouble was because I recorded what *I* did in the notes", a depressingly petulant attitude. It needs no Austrian psychoanalyst to tell him no, the real reason you got into trouble was that you made free with the potassium chloride.

Morally, many people would be on the side of Dr Cox. It seems to have been a clear-cut case of compassion in action; the dead woman's family have always endorsed his act. When the General Medical Council addressed the case, they surprised Dr Cox and his wife (again) by supporting him, and not striking him off the register. But quite properly, the GMC was more interested in the extenuating circumstances; it also understood that doctors have no time in their daily lives for musing. "Do I have the right to do this? Perhaps nature should take its course?" The role of medicine, after all, is to prevent nature taking its course. That's why it was invented.

Not a lot of laughs, then? I'm afraid not. Perhaps I was just looking for trouble, but **Public Eye** (BBC2) likewise concerned a simple question of legal infringement. The subject was flyposting, "a twilight world of intimidation" in which the feeble prohibition "Bill stickers will be prosecuted" is a source of mirth. Rival gangs of flyposters contend for the prime sites and things turn nasty, because the business is not only easy (if you have a big brush and a bucket) but lucrative too. For every poster stuck on a shopfront, Bill Sticker gets £1.20. Record companies and band promoters revel in the cheapness of the advertising and in fact appear offensively smug when questioned about their role. Meanwhile, pensioners in the Rusholme district of Manchester attack poster sites with petitions and wallpaper scrapers, which in the context of this "twilight world of intimidation" looks terribly unwise.

It was a good story for a half-hour current affairs programme. John Taylor hit the streets of Sheffield in the company of Mike Faal, a man who has cornered the flyposting in northern cities so successfully that the council in Sheffield has virtually licensed him to get on with it, and to control the undesirables. Faal came across as a bit of a hero, though as a contributor to *Do the Right Thing* he would certainly have his limitations. One of the angry pensioners confronted him and asked how he defended this illegal despoliation of our streets. And he was ready for this question. "It's a way for me to make money," he said.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (31283)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (47898863)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (6192383)
10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5712919)
10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6735450)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (40863)
12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8518641)
12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (5764573)
12.50 Regional News and weather (64610318)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (10641)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (96153467)
1.50 Columbo (r) (Ceefax) (6017573)
3.05 Timekeepers (s) (6740196) **3.30 Jim Henson's Animal Show** (s) (1584370) **3.55 The Itsy Bitsy Spider** (s) (9145283) **4.15 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (1889221) **4.35 Record Breakers** (1142931)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3583738)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (8941467)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (623047) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (486)
6.30 Regional News magazines (738)
7.00 The World's Strongest Man. The fourth of five qualifying heats in this year's competition (Ceefax) (s) (1863)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. News on science and technology. (Ceefax) (s) (950)
8.00 Wildlife on One. Malice in Wonderland. A look underwater at the coral reef in the Red Sea and the battle for survival that goes on there (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7283)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham captain two teams of sporting celebrities answering questions put by David Coleman (Ceefax) (s) (6318)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (2950)
9.30 Dangerfield. Joanna finds out that Paul has a secret love (Ceefax) (s) (114009) **WALES: 9.30** The Way It Is (588757) **10.50** Film: Shattered (93216844) **12.25am** Film: Taste the Blood of Dracula (814622) **2.00** News headlines and weather (8976603)

Tom Berenger and Greta Scacchi (10.20pm)

10.20 FILM: Shattered (1991). Interesting cast (Tom Berenger, Greta Scacchi, Bob Hoskins, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer) in a ho-hum thriller from Wolfgang Petersen (director of *Das Boot*), based on the novel *The Plastic Nightmare*. A man (Berenger) walks away from a terrible car accident with his memory gone and his body shattered. Plastic surgery restores his looks but he has to turn first to his unreliable wife (Scacchi) and then a private detective (Hoskins) to reconstruct the past. (Ceefax) (s) (428370)
11.55 FILM: Taste the Blood of Dracula (1970) with Christopher Lee. The vampire rises from the grave to avenge the death of a black magician at the hands of some Victorian thrill-seekers. Directed by Peter Sasdy (728202) **1.30am** Weather (2184245)

BBC2

6.00am Technology season: Great Egg Race (81776) **6.30** Great Experiments (75080)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (9039776)
7.15 Lassie (2731592) **7.40 Albert The 5th Musketeer** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7653134) **8.05 Smart** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2021009) **8.35 The Record** (s) (7454115)
9.00 At the Risk of Our Lives (3231196) **9.50 Prue Leith's Tricks of the Trade** (3012028) **10.00 Playdays** (7185991)
10.25 FILM: Old Man Rhythm (1935 b/w) Musical with Charles "Buddy" Rogers. Directed by Edward Ludwig (8688950)
11.40 The Fugitive (b/w) (4419931) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (79757) **1.00 William's Wish Wellingtons** (26050283) **1.05 Johnson and Friends** (48887221) **1.15 Movie Magic** (44446399) **1.40 Even More of Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave** (15426931) **1.55 Understanding Cats** (15416554) **2.10 Sport on Friday** (650950)
3.55 News (Ceefax) (9520399)
4.00 Today's the Day (979) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (863) **5.00 Esther** (9641) **5.30 Still in Business** (670080) **5.45 Turning Points** (801979) **5.50 Human Rights, Human Wrongs** (882844)
6.00pm The Munsters (b/w Ceefax) (147283)
6.25 The New Avengers (Ceefax) (520318)
7.15 Football, Fussball, Voetbal. Next year's European Championship (803573)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport (Ceefax) (s) (5825)
8.30 Secret Nature. Andrew Cooper continues his exploration of the English Channel (7660)
9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News (r) (Ceefax) (5172)

Steve Coogan in quizzical guise (9.30pm)

9.30 Coogan's Run. Natural Born Quizzers. (Ceefax) (s) (82221)
10.00 Have I Got News for You. Angus Deayton hosts the news quiz, with team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (s) (47660)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (785931)
11.15 Anyone For Pennis? Dennis Pennis introduces his favourite Sunday Show interviews (r) (319221) **WALES: 11.15** Welsh Lobby (319221) **11.45** Anyone for Pennis? (318592) **12.15am** Weatherview (310448) **12.20** Human Rights, Human Wrongs (5433210) **12.30-2.55** Film: Pelle the Conqueror (56274697)
11.45 Weatherview (612329)
11.50 Human Rights, Human Wrongs (r) (s) (816298)
12.00 FILM: Pelle the Conqueror (1988) with Max von Sydow (Danish with English subtitles) (526351). Ends at **2.30am**

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CHOICE

Colin Probert supervises coach arrivals (C4, 8.00pm)

Bus Stop
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Visitors to Victoria Coach Station in London may be surprised to discover that the amplified music is classical. On Maundy Thursday, when this film was made, it was Mozart's Horn Concerto. Warwick Hillman, the managing director, reckons such music has a soothing effect on passengers. And if the customers are happy there is less stress on staff. With more than 600 coaches a day passing through the station over Easter, the scope for frayed tempers is considerable. Michael Houldey's camera picks up a few of them. He also follows a worried grandmother and attempts to eject a beggar. The "day-in-the life" format has long been a documentary staple. Houldey proves that it can still come up fresh.

Dressing For Breakfast
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Stephanie Calman's sit-com has forcefully challenged the complacent assumptions of the genre and her female-centred depiction of the battle of the sexes continues to bite. But despite the savage putting-down of men and the often explicit language, in one central respect this is a conventional project. At the heart of the sit-com is an equilibrium that may be temporarily unsettled but is always restored. If the younger Steptoe had left his Dad, as he threatened to throughout the Galton-Simpson masterpiece, the series would have come to an immediate end. Similarly if Louise (Beatie Edney) found a lasting male relationship, there would be no more *Dressing For Breakfast*. But there is little danger of this happening and certainly not tonight.

Coogan's Run: Natural Born Quizzers
BBC2, 9.30pm

Steve Coogan may belong to the younger generation of comics but his memory for popular culture can go back a long way. A previous episode in this series was set in 1960, with appropriate period jokes, and tonight's caper assumes knowledge of a radio quiz that is even older. Hands up those who recall *Top of the Form*, a somewhat well-scrubbed contest between schools. Coogan and his fellow-writers certainly do and have come up with a wonderfully dotty tale about two jailbirds (played by Coogan and Patrick Marber) who failed to win *Top of the Form*, thinly-disguised as *Top of the Class*, as children, went to prison for burning down their school, and reappear 20 years later to stage an unlikely revenge.

Tomorrow's World
BBC1, 7.30pm

Bravely competing with *Coronation Street*, *Tomorrow's World* continues to earn its keep. If the science is often popular rather than important, there is always *Horizon* for a weightier approach. *Horizon* would probably not carry tonight's report about a chair designed to refresh tired businesspeople. The electronics behind the idea are nonetheless impressive. The chair offers both a massage for the muscles, through knobs and rollers, and, thanks to videos, soothing images for the mind. When the subject's pulse drops low enough, the chair turns off. We also hear from Finland about a prototype tree harvester which has six legs and can scythe through a forest like something out of a horror film. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8576912)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (8654912)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (4735270)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (2430979)
10.35 This Morning (28467405)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (8514825)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) (2372863)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (2357554)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (44453689)
1.55 Shortland Street (96174950)
2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show (s) (18022931)
2.50 High Road Isabel is devastated when Alun leaves Glendaroch for Blackpool (Teletext) (5500486)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8088573)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8087844)
3.30 Jays World (s) (3707912) **3.45 Mumfie's White Christmas** (396739)
4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures (1865641) **4.40 Fun House** (Teletext) (s) (1426931)
5.10 LWT — Caring at Christmas (2469844)
5.40 ITN News and weather (687370)
6.00 Home and Away. Dylan, Angel and Shane prepare for the trip of a lifetime (r) (Teletext) (141009)
6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (875405)
7.00 Family Fortunes. Les Dennis introduces two more families as they compete for prizes and the jackpot (Teletext) (s) (6931)

Denise Black and Maggie Saunders (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Denise (Denise Black) is none too pleased when her sister Alison (Maggie Saunders) visits (Teletext) (318)
8.00 The Bill: No Questions Asked. Ackland and Stamp run into a teenage tearaway whose life is beginning to spiral out of control. With Trudie Goodwin and Graham Cole (Teletext) (2979)
8.30 Faith in the Future: Odd Job. Lynda Bellingham faces menopausal, semi-single life. Hannah hates her new job but sticks with it for the sake of the money. With Julia Sawalha (Teletext) (s) (1486)
9.00 Woman on the Run: The Lawrencia Bembenek Story. The last part of the mini-series based on the true story of a woman who is sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering her husband's former wife. With Tatum O'Neal (s) (3554)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (41486)
10.30 FILM: Fighting Justice (1989) starring James Woods, Robert Downey Jr and Margaret Colin. A former crusading New York lawyer is persuaded to take up the cause of a young man jailed for murder. Directed by Joseph Ruben (43776)
12.30am London Tonight (Teletext) (5252142)
12.40 Sledge Hammer (9859784)
1.05 The James Whale Show (s) (8732581)
2.05 The Chart Show (s) (9128644)
3.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (80426887)
3.25 Noisy Mothers (s) (4824264)
4.30 The New Music (95332)
5.30 ITN Morning News (89790). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.30am Ulysses 31 Cartoon series (r) (44496)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (33592)
9.00 FILM: Rhapsody in Blue (1945). Fictionalised film biography of composer George Gershwin, played in his film debut by Robert Alda. Directed by Irving Rapper (71540979)
11.35 Pete Smith Specialties. (2541844)
12.00 Simply the Best (r) (48399)
12.30pm Sesame Street with dancer Arthur Mitchell (17660) **1.30 Katie and Orbie** (r) (63196) **2.00 Second Chance Sea** (60336318)
2.15 FILM: Junior Miss (1945) A teenager tries to prevent her father from having what she misinterprets as a fling with the boss's daughter. With Peggy Ann Garner. Written and directed by George Seaton (651689)
4.00 Think Tank (Teletext) (s) (937)
4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (931)
5.00 The Factory (r) (Teletext) (s) (7050592)
5.45 Holy Places (r) (Teletext) (s) (970592)
6.00 Blossom (r). (Teletext) (s) (196)
6.30 Moviewatch (Teletext) (s) (776)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (431370)
7.55 Book Choice (Teletext) (s) (777028)
8.00 Bus Stop. A day in the life of Victoria Coach Station (Teletext) (3221)
8.30 Brookside. Rosie hits rock-bottom (Teletext) (r) (9028)
9.00 Dressing for Breakfast. Comedy of contemporary female sexual mores. (Teletext) (r) (5660)
9.30 Rising Damp: Clunk Clink. Classic comedy with Leonard Rossiter and Richard Beckinsale (r) (Teletext) (84689)
10.00 Frasier: Dark Victory. Sharp, lapidary American comedy about a radio psychologist (Teletext) (s) (49028)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. The chatterbox is joined by Reg Presley, Alex Hammond, MP, and Sir Tim Rice (s) (787399)
11.15 Crapston Villas Adult animation by the creators of *Spitting Image* (s) (163950)
11.30 Eurotrash — The World Tour Antoine de Caunes and Jean Paul Gaultier body-surf into realms beyond taste (s) (80912)
12.00 Beavis and Butthead Pop videos (s) (86603)

Belafonte, Begley and Ryan (12.30am)

12.30am FILM: Odds Against Tomorrow (1959). Harry Belafonte is an entertainer recruited to take part in a bank robbery by a former policeman (Ed Begley). He comes up against a racist gangster (Robert Ryan). With Shelley Winters and Gloria Grahame. Directed by Robert Wise. (Teletext) (396564)
2.15 FILM: Sherlock Holmes in Washington (1943, b/w) Set in Washington during the Second World War. Basil Rathbone stars as Sherlock Holmes on the trail of a missing microfilm up against Nazi agents. *Nigel Bruce plays Dr Watson. With George* Zucco and Henry Daniell. (Teletext) (6312264). Ends at **3.30**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Coronation Street (2357554) **1.25** Home and Away (44453689) **1.55** A Country Practice (36216912) **2.25-3.25** Murder, She Wrote (9889641) **5.10** Shortland Street (2469844) **6.25** Anglia Weather (853467) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (134) **10.30** Anglia News Extra (50134) **11.00** Six Pairs of Pants (9883) **11.30** Plugged (86844) **12.30am** The James Whale Show (10332) **1.30** Noisy Mothers (8470069) **2.25** The Album Show (5471871) **3.20** Film: The Shakedown (558516) **5.00** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (44264)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (96174950) **2.20-3.25** Murder, She Wrote (4411467) **5.10** Shortland Street (2469844) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (875405) **10.40** Central Weekend (3781405) **12.10am** Who Do You Do? (3823871) **12.40** Beyond Reality (9859784) **4.25** Jobfinder (2877968) **5.20** Asian Eye (1801852)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2357554) **1.25** Home and Away (89319641) **1.50** Blue Heelers (8962399) **2.50-3.20** Growing Pains (5500486) **5.10-5.40** High Road (2469844) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (875405) **10.40** Up Front (428009) **11.40** Bodies of Evidence (151848) **12.35am-1.05** The Powers That Be (2404239)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (5881825) **1.20-1.50** High Road (44454318) **2.20-3.25** Murder, She Wrote (4411467) **5.10** A Country Practice (2469844) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (134) **10.45** Film: The Hound of the Baskervilles (83439318) **12.35am** The Good Sex Guide Abroad (2404239)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (134) **10.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (448028) **10.45** A Night Out with Money (376776) **11.45** Street Legal (865919)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Meridian News and Weather (4735270) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (8514825) **12.55-1.25** Coronation Street (2357554) **1.25** Home and Away (44453689) **1.55** A Country Practice (96174950) **2.20** Houseparty (18022931) **3.25** Meridian News and Weather (8087844) **5.10** Home and Away (2469844) **5.37** Three Minutes - Your Story (874825) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (74202) **10.00** News at Ten; Weather (41486) **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (457776) **10.40** Six Pairs of Pants (257757) **11.10** Tales from the Crypt (161467) **11.30** Plugged (86844) **12.30am** The James Whale Show (10332) **1.30** Noisy Mothers (8470069) **2.25** The Album Show (5471871) **3.20** Film: The Shakedown (558516) **5.00** Freescreen (44264)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (4735270) **12.20pm** Westcountry News (8523573) **12.25-12.30** My Christmas Story (8522844) **12.55-1.25** Coronation Street (2357554) **1.25** Home and Away (44453689) **1.55** The Woodward File (36216912) **2.25** Murder, She Wrote (9889641) **3.25** Westcountry News; Weather (8087844) **5.10** Home and Away (2469844) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (74202) **10.30** Westcountry News; Weather (457776) **10.40** Film: Ladyhawke (17020405)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (4735270) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Bilsdale: Network North (8514825) **12.55-1.25** Coronation Street (2357554) **1.25** Home and Away (44453689) **1.55** A Country Practice (96174950) **2.20** Murder, She Wrote (9606318) **3.10** Help Yourself (8089589) **3.15** Five Minutes (8081660) **3.25** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bilsdale: Network North (8087844) **5.10** Home and Away (2469844) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (139080) **6.30-7.00** Maynard's Bill (134) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (457776) **10.40** Magnum (428009) **11.40** War and Remembrance (480370) **1.35am** The James Whale Show (9640790) **2.35** The Big E (6483609) **3.30** The Beat (9616142) **4.25** Shift (2859516) **5.15** Profile (4590264)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (33592) **9.00** Film: Rhapsody in Blue (71540979) **11.35** Pete Smith Specialities (2541844) **12.00pm** Sesame Street (76860) **1.00** Slot Meithrin (43979) **1.30** Film: The Ratings Game (65863) **3.30** Sophie's Meal Course (912) **4.00** Think Tank (937) **4.30** Hands Up (931) **5.00** 5 Pump: Y Bolgi Bach (6479641) **5.15** 5 Pump: Mega (3588283) **5.30** Fifteen To One (283) **6.00** Newyddion (514931) **6.15** Heno (505134) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (442660) **7.25** Dros Ben Llestri (134080) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (3221) **8.30** Newyddion (9028) **9.00** Achabachyn: Ar Ti Dinbych (954573) **9.45** Holy Places (236757) **10.00** Brookside (49028) **10.30** Clive Anderson Talks Back (787399) **11.15** Crapston Villas (163950) **11.30** Eurotrash (80912) **12.00am** Beavis And Butt-Head (86603) **12.30** Film: Odds Against Tomorrow (396564) **2.15** Film: Sherlock Holmes in Washington (4565158)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE
7.00am The DJ Kat Show (52825) **8.00** Power Rangers (81028) **8.30** Press Your Luck (80399) **9.00** Court TV (89509) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (71931) **10.30** Concentration (93863) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (85979) **12.00** Jeopardy (84115) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (17937) **1.00** The Waltons (12486) **2.00** Geraldo (38573) **3.00** Court TV (4252) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (6571757) **4.20** Power Rangers (3627202) **4.45** Postcards from the Hedge (5703221) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4592) **6.00** The Simpsons (9776) **6.30** Jeopardy (8888) **7.00** LAPD (5221) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8912) **8.00** Just Kidding (1641) **8.30** Coppers (4496) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (62405) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (65592) **11.00** Law and Order (66844) **12.00** David Letterman (8000055) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6528806) **1.30** Rachel Gunn (28887) **2.00** Hit Mix (7950697)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (9823221) **10.30** ABC Nightline (91405) **11.00** News and Business (209739) **1.30pm** CBS News (41202) **2.30** CBS News **3.30** Century (1134) **4.00** News and Business (31047) **5.00** Live at Five (60844) **6.30** Adam Boulton (25080) **8.30** The Entertainment Show (8318) **9.00** News and Business (723028) **11.30** CBS News (19757) **12.30am** ABC News **1.30** Adam Boulton (15622) **2.30** Worldwide Report (76069) **3.30** Century (26564) **4.30** CBS News (42264) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (49142)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (78486) **8.00 Alice Adams (1935)** (29825) **10.00 3 Ninjas (1992)** (28047) **12.00 The Spy in the Green Hat (1966)** (42776) **2.00pm Beethoven's 2nd (1993)** (58844) **4.00 Apache Uprising (1965)** (6196) **6.00 3 Ninjas (1992)** (38080) **8.00 Beethoven's 2nd (1993)** (48825) **10.00 Invisible: The Chronicles of Benjamin Knight (1993)** (382496) **11.35 Kickboxer III: The Art of War (1992)** (237689) **1.00am M Butterfly (1993)** (504974) **2.40 Heart of a Child (1994)** (4051142) **4.10-6.00 The Spy in the Green Hat (1966)** (497051)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm The Glass Key (1942) (4776) **6.00 On the Town (1949)** (25912) **8.00 The Breakfast Club (1985)** (37757) **10.00 Papillon (1973)** (65615931) **12.35am Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill! (1965)** (8854055) **2.05-3.45 Paternity (1981)** (607581)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am The Mudlark (1950) (76028) **8.00 A Christmas Carol (1979)** (79592) **9.00 Zoo Robbery (1973)** (4075937) **10.15 Bachelor Knight (1947)** (87474680) **12.00 The Perils of Pauline (1947)** (40318) **2.00pm Bonanza: Under Attack (1995)** (54486) **4.00 A Christmas Carol (1979)** (4363573) **4.55 Zoo Robbery (1973)** (8313370) **6.00 The Snow Queen (1993)** (13399) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (5850) **8.00 Rise and Walk: The Dennis Byrd Story (1994)** (46467) **10.00 The Assassin (1993)** (46979) **12.00 Mood Indigo: Mind of a Killer (1992)** (457351) **1.35am Betrayal of Trust (1993)** (221264) **3.20-6.00 Someone's Watching (1993)** (32429790)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (45419641) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33421080) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36291738) **7.30** Ducktales (36203573) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29666370) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (29665641) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29689221) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63404825) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (33445660) **10.30** Quack Attack (29685405) **11.00** Walt Disney Presents (36212221) **12.00** FILM: Two Tickets to Broadway (33432196) **2.00pm** Wonderland (70232931) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62237689) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70228738) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62232134) **4.00** Quack Attack (62211641) **4.30** Ducktales (62217825) **5.00** Cyberstar (88248283) **6.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (80929196) **7.30** Eyewitness (62218554) **8.00-10.00** The Best of Hollywood. Rachel and the Stranger (68374641)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Snowboarding (90825) **8.00** Eurofun (30757) **8.30** Extreme Games (79202) **9.30** Live Alpine Skiing (32757) **11.00** Freestyle Skiing (12383) **12.00** Live Alpine Skiing (21844) **1.30** Live Bobsleigh (12370) **3.30** Eurofun (9318) **4.00** Funsports (8825) **4.30** Freestyle Skiing (70931) **5.30** Alpine Skiing (78689) **6.30** News (9554) **7.00** Golf (91554) **9.00** Live Equestrianism (57450) **11.00** Extreme Games (97738) **12.00-12.30am** News (80413)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Cricket: South Africa v England (4852844) **3.30** World of Rugby (4134) **3.30** FA Cup: Brighton v Fulham (70757) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (5486) **6.00** Sports Centre (43931) **7.00** Big League: Warrington v Castleford (79969793) **9.25** Sports Centre (791134) **9.30** Cricket (11592) **11.30** Centre (55573) **12.30am** Big League (46784) **2.30-4.30** Cricket (54581)

Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Jules Munshin (Movies Gold, 6.00pm)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00pm Trans World (6663467) **8.00** Skate International of Japan (6572115) **9.00** Boxing (6575202) **11.00** Skiff Sailing (1363080) **11.30** Coca-Cola Cricket (9245405) **12.00-1.00am** Trans World (6739018)

SKY SOAP
7.00am Guiding Light (4924757) **7.55** As the World Turns (7250221) **8.50** Peyton Place (4968467) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (4012467) **10.10** Another World

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (1389399) **11.30** American Vacation (4788370) **12.30pm** Pierre Franey (2357573) **1.00** Around the World (2973432) **1.30** Hawaii Cooks (2356844) **2.00** E Report (4380863) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (2056134) **3.00** Getaway (4389370) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2068979)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Our Century: Weapons at War (1302979) **5.00** History Alive (4383950) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Genghis Khan (2365592)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
1.00am Swamp Thing (1494061) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (8723158) **2.00-4.00** FILM The Reincarnation of Peter Proud (2154061)

TLC
9.00am The Joy of Painting (9121979) **9.30** Cooking With Kurma (1030660) **10.00** Furniture to Go (6391660) **10.30** Soul Mates (9110863) **11.00** Only Human (1636931) **12.00** Jailbirds (9101115) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (1041776) **1.00** Cooking With Kurma (1647047) **1.30** Painting (1040047) **2.00** The Right Thing? (7015554) **2.30** Get Well Soon (8661134) **3.00** Furniture to Go (7034689) **3.30-4.00** Two's Country (8673979)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (1640134) **7.30** Neighbours (1629641) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9100486) **8.30** EastEnders (9109757) **9.00** The Bill (9190009) **9.30** The Sullivans (1049318) **10.00** Bergerac (1625825) **11.00** Dallas (1645689) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9103573) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1043134) **1.00** EastEnders (1649405) **1.30** The Bill (1042405) **2.00** The Sullivans (98096347) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3130689) **3.00** Angels (7036047) **3.30** Eldorado (8642009) **4.00** Miss Marple: A Pocketful of Rye (95977738) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41294028) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6426844) **6.25** EastEnders (2079592) **7.00** Eldorado (7028028) **7.30** Taxi (8651757) **8.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (1094347) **8.20** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (1835202) **9.00** Widows (5478592) **10.00** The Bill (6226405) **10.35** Classic Sport (1040844) **11.35** The Young Ones (2511028) **12.15am** Dr Who (8136245) **12.45** FILM Code Name: Emerald (3405581) **2.20** Shopping at Night

TCC
6.00am Casper (73221) **7.00** Pink Panther (42863) **7.30** Ready or Not (21370) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (50757) **8.30** Casper (6244009) **8.45** Dinobabies (6265592) **9.00** Tiny TCC (8916202) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (86776) **2.30** Happily Ever After (4641) **3.00** Sonic the Hedgehog (6134) **3.30** New Pink Panther (6486) **4.00** California Dreams (8221) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (4405)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Blue (58028) **6.30** Count Duckula (73660) **7.00** Batfink (1633486) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3664825) **7.45** Rugrats (883221) **8.15** Doug (989115) **8.45** Rocko's Modern Life (5479405) **9.00** Alvin (20592) **9.30** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (39738) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (92283) **11.00** Children's BBC (12047) **12.00** Rocko (17028) **12.30pm** Real Monsters (33554) **1.00** Ship to Shore (18863) **1.30** Mighty Max (32825) **2.00** Speed Racer (3641) **2.30** Galaxy High School (5937) **3.00** Count Duckula (2776) **3.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (5592) **4.00** Hero Turtles (1399) **4.30** Rugrats (5793) **5.00** Clarissa (7221) **5.30** Wishbone (4863) **6.00** Doug (1776) **6.30** Are You Afraid? (2028) **7.00** Ferris Bueller (4757) **7.30-8.00** Sister Sister (1912)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Untamed Africa (1091283) **5.00** *Legends of History* (7018641) **6.00** Invention (8662863) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1580641) **7.30** On the Road Again (8659399) **8.00** Lonely Planet (5458370) **9.00** Wings Over the World (5476134) **10.00** Corvette (5479221) **11.00-12.00** Azimuth (1624196)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Devil Girl from Mars (2264973) **1.30pm** Honey West (1037573) **2.00** The Saint (6398115) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7021115) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8860405) **4.00** FILM The Fallen Idol (7025931) **6.00** Danger Man (8666689) **6.30** The Wild Wild West (1584467) **7.30** The Protectors (8646825) **8.00** The Saint (5450196) **9.00** FILM. The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! **11.30-12.00** FILM: Something to Cry About (6384370)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (7489047) **7.00** Living Magazine (6277689) **9.00** Front Gardens (2162844) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5265196) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (1879134) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3033912) **11.55** Foodwise (6186844) **12.30pm** Food and Drink (5618134) **1.05** Kilroy (1154641) **2.00** Agony Hour (4149405) **3.00** Living Magazine (4896009) **4.00** Infatuation: UK (8535738) **4.30** Crosswits (7672202) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (59486370) **5.30** Bewitched (8548202) **6.00** Esther (8545115) **6.30** Delia Smith's Christmas (8538467) **7.00** Sportswomen (4469689) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (4445009) **9.00** FILM: The Heart of Christmas (4804028) **9.30** Opryland Christmas (9225950) **10.30** Entertainment Now **11.00-12.00** Dangerous Women (6257825)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm The Wonder Years (8979) **5.30** Tintin (5757) **6.00** Batman (5370) **6.30** Catchphrase (9950) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (8115) **7.30** The Fall Guy (67641) **8.30** Home to Roost (6370) **9.00** Ruth Rendell: Kissing the Gunner's Daughter (59979) **10.00** All Clued Up (54573) **10.30** Neon Rider (23047) **11.30** Batman (85237) **12.00** The Fall Guy (66448) **1.00am** Zorro (89448) **1.30** Rhoda (15351) **2.00** Neon Rider (50142) **3.00** Rhoda (96784) **3.30** Zorro (91790) **4.00** The Wonder Years (16055) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (97413)

MTV
6.30am The Grind (24979) **7.00** 3 from 1 (8445689) **7.15** Awake (4078950) **8.00** Music Videos (501028) **10.30** Rockumentary (64950) **11.00** Soul (49776) **12.00** Greatest Hits (90863) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (72812509) **2.45** 3 from 1 (3748863) **3.00** Cinematic (8864863) **3.15** Hanging Out (7204689) **4.00** News (2571757) **4.15** Hanging Out (2554080) **4.30** Dial MTV (6863) **5.00** Real World London (7009) **5.30** Hanging Out/Dance (54365) **7.00** Greatest Hits (22825) **8.00** Most Wanted (68399) **9.30** Beavis and Butthead (91592) **10.00** News (542115) **10.15** Cinematic (530370) **10.30** Oddities (72979) **11.00** Partyzone (15450) **1.00am** Night Videos (4706264)

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (3323973) **9.00** Café (1236405) **12.00** Heart and Soul (2345738) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (2354486) **2.00** Jim Bowen (9219080) **3.00** Into the Music (7155626) **6.00** Elton John (2367950) **7.00** VH-1 for You (6565825) **8.00** Backtrack 1968 (4379757) **8.30** Profiles (4381592) **9.00** Robert Palmer (6561009) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (6564196) **11.00** Around (3228329) **12.00** The Nightfly Rocks (7088500) **2.00am** Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV
7.00am Asian Morning (11960979) **8.30** Aap Ki Farmaish (92749270) **9.00** Hindi FILM: Baazi (78973844) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (84644806) **12.30pm** Zabaan Sambhal Ke (62377202) **1.00** Hindi FILM: Jurm (25363318) **4.00** Manasi (21593196) **4.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (21582080) **5.00** Zee Zone (58591196) **5.30** Hip Hip Hurray (92476134) **6.30** Zee and U (21594825) **7.00** BBCD (59504660) **7.30** Namaste India (21590009) **8.00** News **8.30** Filmi Chakker (59509115) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM: Mohini (13081383)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Cartoons from 5am to 8pm; TNT films.
7.00pm Laurel and Hardy's Laughing 20s (1965) (36202844) **9.00 Get Carter (1971)** (68371554) **11.00 Deaf Smith and Johnny Ears (1973)** (40342405) **12.40am Northwest Passage (1940)** (70289535) **3.45-5.00 Northern Pursuit (1943)** (35538516)

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BOXING 36

MATHIS FINDS
FAITH TO FACE
THREAT OF TYSON

SPORT

GOLF 37

DALY REVIVES
MEMORIES OF
JAMAICA FAREWELL

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15 1995

Inexperienced attack justifies manager's decision to gamble

Martin swings Test England's way

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

DURBAN (first day of five. South Africa won the toss): South Africa have scored 139 for five

AN HOUR into this critical third Test, England's selection policy looked condemned. After much agonising, they had chosen to dispense with the experience in their attack and the word that sprang readily to mind was reckless. Yet, by the end of this baffling day, shortened by almost two hours through bad light, the strategy was vindicated and South Africa were distinctly vulnerable, relying once more on their regular rearguard pairing of Jonty Rhodes and Brian McMillan.

The transformation was hard to explain. From 54 without loss, proceeding with the serenity of those profiting from the errors of others, South Africa lost five wickets for 35. While giving due credit to a sudden and essential improvement in the bowling, it should be recorded that the Kingsmead pitch, subject of so much sinister speculation, behaved impeccably and that three of the wickets were donated by irrational strokes.

The main beneficiary was Peter Martin, who had woken with hope rather than expectation of playing his fourth Test match. When his first two overs cost 17 runs, including four successive cover-driven fours by Andrew Hudson, Martin might himself have begun to share the general scepticism over the omission of both Devon Malcolm and Angus Fraser, respectively the hammer and chisel of England's established attack.

It had, unquestionably, been an adventurous selection by the manager, Raymond Illingworth, but it was not without logic. He judged that the pitch would be too easy-paced for Malcolm and too true for Fraser. He reasoned that any help would come from swing and so, in Martin and Mark Ilott, he identified the men to capitalise.

The drawbacks were that this pair had only six caps between them. Nerves were inevitable, early waywardness unsurprising. While Dominic Cork bowled his customarily confrontational spell with the new ball, runs flowed freely from the other end.

To his credit, Michael Atherton — who would also have chosen to bat first — did not let matters drift. Ilott was withdrawn after five overs and Martin, following those two chastening overs, was promptly switched so that the strong cross-wind assisted his away-swing. His line improved instantly and he began to make better use of his height. Gary Kirsten, becalmed during Hudson's surge, cut impulsively at a ball of steep bounce and Graeme Hick grabbed the catch high to his left at second slip.

At the time, this seemed no more than a temporary reprieve. But the day would not be the same again, for now England applied pressure from both ends. Richard Illingworth, summoned as early as the 16th over, found no turn but his recently acquired ability to torment through flight brought rich rewards.

Hudson had scored his 45 from a ball fewer than Kirsten required to make eight and looked set for overdue correction of an abysmal Test record against England when he offered no shot to Illingworth's arm ball. David Orchard, umpiring his first Test, confidently upheld England's appeal for a catch at silly point off pad and glove.

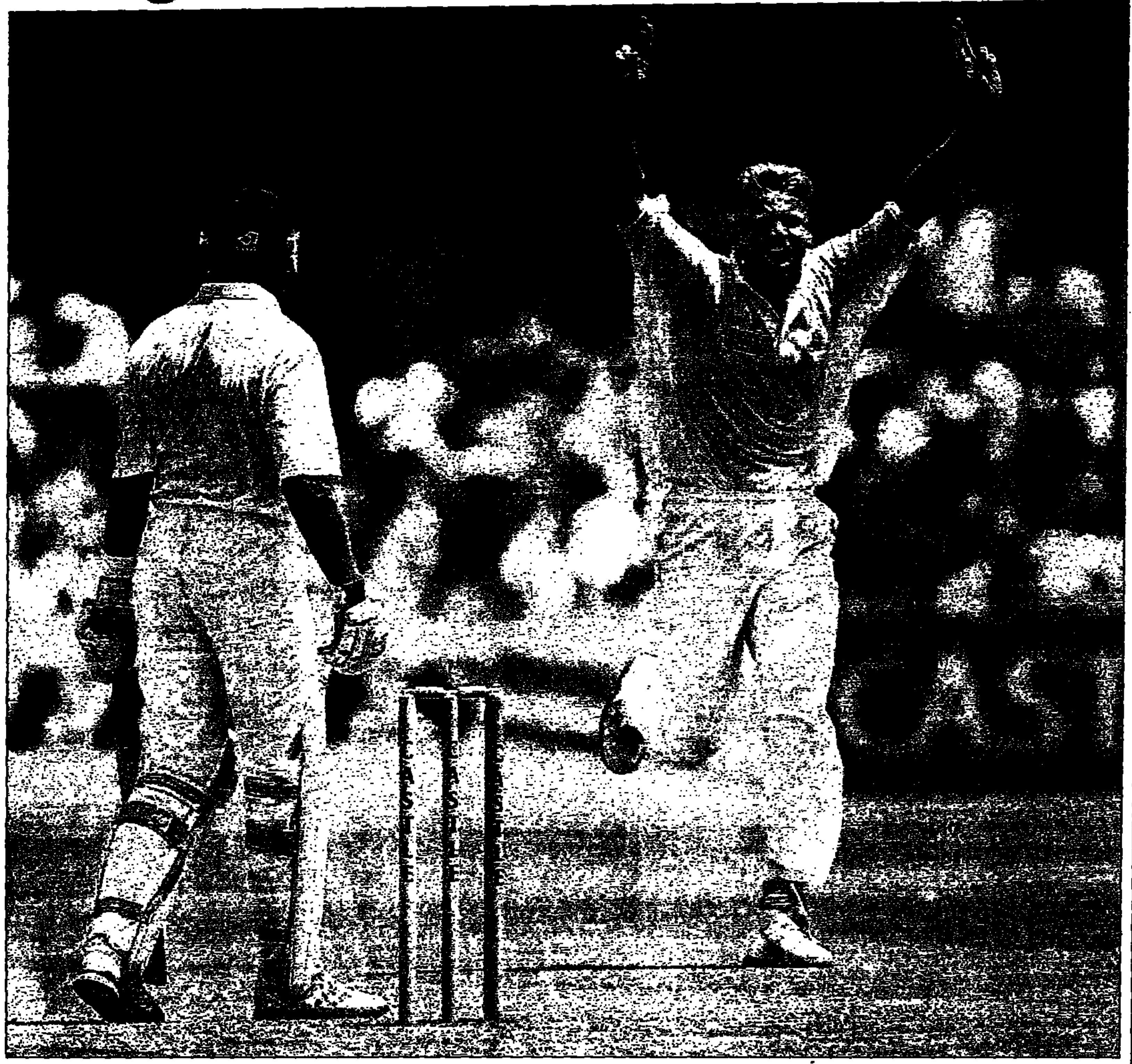
Six, tense overs later, Illingworth took a still more influential wicket. Hansie Cronje, who has yet to impose himself on the series, made what looked a pre-determined attempt to hit Illingworth over the infield and was instead caught comfortably at mid-on by Martin. Illingworth, who once played a winter on this ground for Natal, now had two wickets for five and England adjourned for lunch with spirits soaring.

Daryll Cullinan bats by instinct; he is not the man for the innings of retrenchment. Fortunate to survive a leg-before appeal in the first over of the afternoon, when he, too, shouldered arms to Illingworth, he made only one more run before driving impulsively at Martin and giving Robin Smith a straightforward catch at cover.

Rhodes was now joined by the debutant, Jacques Kallis. This was a nice irony as the morning newspaper in Natal had staged a phone-in calling for Rhodes, one of their own, to make way for the younger man. In the event, the selectors played them both and Rhodes, nothing if not a survivor, comfortably outlasted the pretender to his place.

Kallis could hardly be blamed, for he received the ball of the day, a classical outswinger from Martin that demanded a stroke and took a thin edge. Martin had now taken three for 12 in 9.3 overs since changing ends but England knew better than to believe they were in command with McMillan striding in.

Absurdly low in the order for one who has comfortably the highest batting average in the side, McMillan's presence was massively reassuring for a team in crisis. When fading light and thunder curtailed play soon after tea, he had added 50 with Rhodes and given a 15,000 crowd reason for bewilderment at what had gone before.


Martin is elated after having Kallis, the South African newcomer, caught behind for his third wicket. Photograph: Graham Morris

SCOREBOARD

South Africa won toss

SOUTH AFRICA. First innings
G Kirsten c Hick b Martin 8
(79min, 62 balls)
A C Hudson c Crawley b Illingworth 45
(86min, 63 balls, 9 fours)
*W J Cronje c Martin b Illingworth .. 8
(28min, 17 balls, 1 four)
D J Cullinan c Smith b Martin .. 10
(64min, 60 balls, 2 fours)
J N Rhodes not out 36
(142min, 102 balls, 4 fours)
J H Kallis c Russell b Martin 1
(12min, 12 balls)
B M McMillan not out 26
(87min, 68 balls, 3 fours)
Extras (lb 5) 5
Total (5 wkts, 64 overs, 251min) .. 139

†D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C R Matthews and A A Donald to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-54 (Hudson 45), 2-56 (Cronje 2), 3-73 (Cullinan 9), 4-85 (Rhodes 9), 5-89 (Rhodes 12)

BOWLING: Cork 19-10-41-0 (9-5-18-0, 3-2-9-0, 7-3-14-0); Ilott 8-1-24-0 (5-1-15-0, 3-0-9-0); Martin 13-4-31-3 (2-0-17-0, 4-1-6-1, 7-3-8-2); Illingworth 22-8-33-2 (one spell), Hick 2-0-5-0 (one spell).

Lunch: 76-3 (31 overs, 122min) Cullinan 9, Rhodes 2. Tea: 136-5 (62 overs, 242min) Rhodes 34, McMillan 25. Bad light stopped play at 2.44pm

ENGLAND: *M A Atherton, A J Stewart, J P Crawley, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, †R C Russell, D G Cork, P J Martin, M C Ilott, R K Illingworth.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard. TV replay umpire: K E Liebenberg. Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

RESULTS: First Test (Pretoria): drawn. Second Test (Johannesburg): drawn.

TESTS TO COME: Fourth (Port Elizabeth): Dec 26 to 30. Fifth (Cape Town): Jan 2 to 6.

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Carling to take the lead by signing contract

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WILL CARLING, the England captain since 1988, led the way into rugby union's new era yesterday when he reached agreement with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) over a professional contract. Last night, Carling was confident of signing and the RFU expects the squad which will play Western Samoa tomorrow to follow suit.

Solicitors representing the players and the union believe the contracts to be fair and equable. The settlement will have the dual effect of clearing the air prior to the international and quelling any threat from proponents of an unofficial super league in Europe.

"I understand that players have to consider all sorts of offers, but I have made up my mind," Carling said. "It's up to each player to decide, but if [the European League] is not something I believe is a viable option. Their sort of contract means they own you lock, stock and barrel.

"I prefer to stay here in London and play rugby with Harlequins. No one can predict what will happen in the next year, but I think top players will be doing very well anyway and they will still have flexibility in their lives."

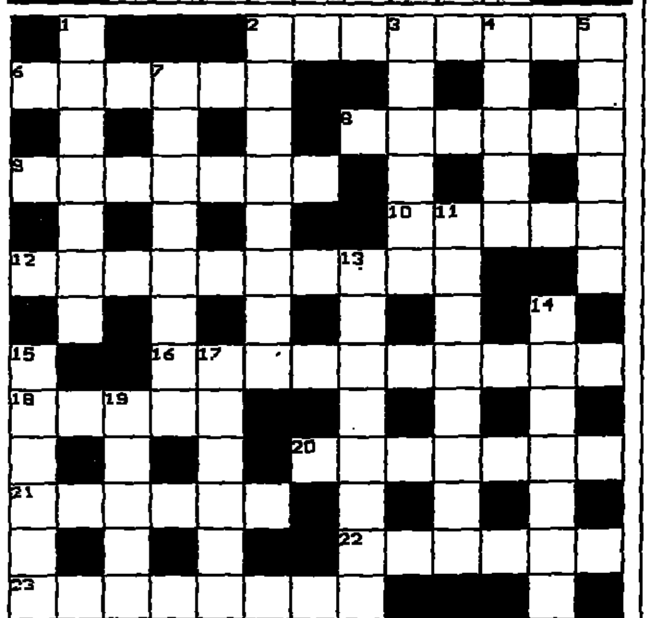
Carling admitted that contractual discussions had deflected from the international preparations but declined to discuss the attitude adopted by his colleagues. However, the RFU is confident that agreement in principle has been achieved and has no intention of forcing the issue.

The Samoans' tour ends after the game at Twickenham tomorrow, but, though their immediate future is brighter than six months ago, they will reapply to the International Rugby Football Board settlement fund for money to ensure the game's development. "But the process seems a long-winded one," Bryan Williams, their coach, said. "We need the money now."

☐ Even if they finish bottom of the Courage Clubs Championship second division, Newcastle will not be relegated. The RFU last night resolved to preserve the status quo, whereby no team will go down to division three.

Sports Letters, page 36
Charismatic captain, page 38

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 653

ACROSS
2 To flatter (6,2)
6 Foreman (*slang*): film electrician (6)
8 Latex: eraser (6)
9 Talk over (7)
10 Mexican empire, fell to Cortes (5)
12 Our era; advancing age (joc.) (4,6)
16 Relentless (eg effort) (10)
18 Illegal activities (5)
20 Make neater, quicker (7)
21 Coloured cotton print (6)
22 Willow flower (6)
23 Amaze (8)

DOWN
1 Beaming with joy (7)
2 Dismiss; rudely ignore (5,3)
3 Bird with big colourful beak (6)
4 Disprove (argument) (5)
5 Illegal seizure of ship (6)
7 Man of all work (8)
11 Babylonian stepped tower (8)
13 To the extent that (8)
14 Meantime (7)
15 Spiny tropical tree (6)
17 Sir Isaac —, mathematician (6)
19 Stupid person (5)

The solution to 652 will be published Wednesday, December 20

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Counties reject Illingworth's plea

BY SIMON WILDE

THERE was little encouraging news from headquarters for Raymond Illingworth yesterday. Representatives of the county cricket clubs listened with interest to the suggestion that the England manager should have ultimate authority over their players, and rejected it; and dual-qualified players, like Andrew Symonds, are not going to be prevented from plying their trade here, despite the introduction of a revised declaration for them to sign.

Illingworth looks enviously on the powers available to his counterparts in other countries, who can order a player to be rested from a domestic competition to preserve him for international fixtures. He watched with frustration as Yorkshire and Darren Gough defied his wishes last summer.

The winter meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, which concluded at Lord's yesterday, decided that it would be more "appropriate" if the matter was left to the discretion of the county concerned. They advocated "discussion" between the parties.

As for the Birmingham-born Symonds, Gloucestershire were still anticipating last night that he will take up a three-year contract with them in the spring, barring selection in the meantime for Australia, where he was raised. If he does so, he will be required to sign a new declaration stating that it is not his "desire or intention to play cricket for any country outside the European Community and accordingly I will not play, and I am not seeking, and will not seek, to qualify to play cricket at any level for any such country".

While this puts a greater moral obligation on Symonds to commit himself to English cricket, there would still be no legal redress if he subsequently decided to play for Australia.

The meeting concentrated on the cricket committee's review of four-day cricket and followed most of its recommendations. The most notable rebuttals were the powers it wanted given to Illingworth and a complete ban on overseas players from 1999. The latter issue will be discussed again in the spring.

The committee's advice was taken on changes to the domestic competitions, notably a reduction in the number of overs per day in the championship, prize-money extending to nine places and the option to use a heavy roller. By 1997, most championship matches should be starting on Wednesdays.

MAIN CHANGES FOR 1996

☐ County championship: overs reduced from 110 to 104 on first three days, and from 102 to 96 on fourth day. Prize-money increased by £46,000 to £155,000 to cover first nine finishers. Use of heavy roller permitted.

☐ Benson and Hedges Cup: innings reduced from 55 to 50 overs; one 45-minute interval.

☐ NatWest Trophy: separate start days for semi-finals.

BAF tightens Olympic selection format

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN WHAT was described by the British Athletic Federation (BAF) as "a vigorous tightening up of the system", the governing body announced yesterday a return to the Olympic trials format that put Sebastian Coe out of contention for a third successive 1,500 metres title in the Eighties.

However, far from being controversial, the change has been welcomed by Britain's athletes. Some 177 competitors communicated their response to the federation. "The policy certainly reflects input from the athletes," Geoff Parsons, the Commonwealth Games high jump bronze medal-winner, said.

For the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year, the first two athletes in each event at the trials, who are eligible for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will be guaranteed places in the team, provided the qualification standard has been met. Athletes finishing in the first two, but without qualifying marks, will give way to those lower down who do possess them.

For the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, only the winning athlete was assured of a place, the remaining two being allocated at the selectors' discretion. That system has been in operation for every international championship since the Seoul Olympics of 1988, while the BAF has attempted, without success, to conceal the holes in its policy.

"The system was being abused," Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said. "Hence the move towards these two significant changes." The other change is the stipulation that athletes must compete in the event or events for which they wish to be selected. If Linford Christie wants to compete in the 100 and 200 metres in Atlanta, he will need to run both at the trials in Birmingham in June.

Now it is back to the 1988 format by which Coe failed to make Olympic selection. He was knocked out in the heats but, under a first-past-the-post system, would probably have been named instead of Steve Crabb, who was second in the trial, to join Steve Cram and Peter Elliott.

The selectors have retained a safety clause whereby, in "exceptional circumstances", they can make "value judgments" over selections. However, the new policy should help to eliminate any abuse.

Too often, athletes have fulfilled the requirement to compete in the trials without taking part in their main event. Last year, Steve Smith, the British high jump record-holder, competed in the long jump instead. In the world championship trials, Colin Jackson ran the 100 metres. Or, he started to, but did not finish, claiming injury, only to run for money in Italy the next day. Jackson was selected subject to proving fitness, failed to do so, and did not defend his hurdles world title.

The "tough policy" is designed partly to reduce controversy. Parsons said he did not believe the policy held any concerns, but added: "There will always be difficult cases."